

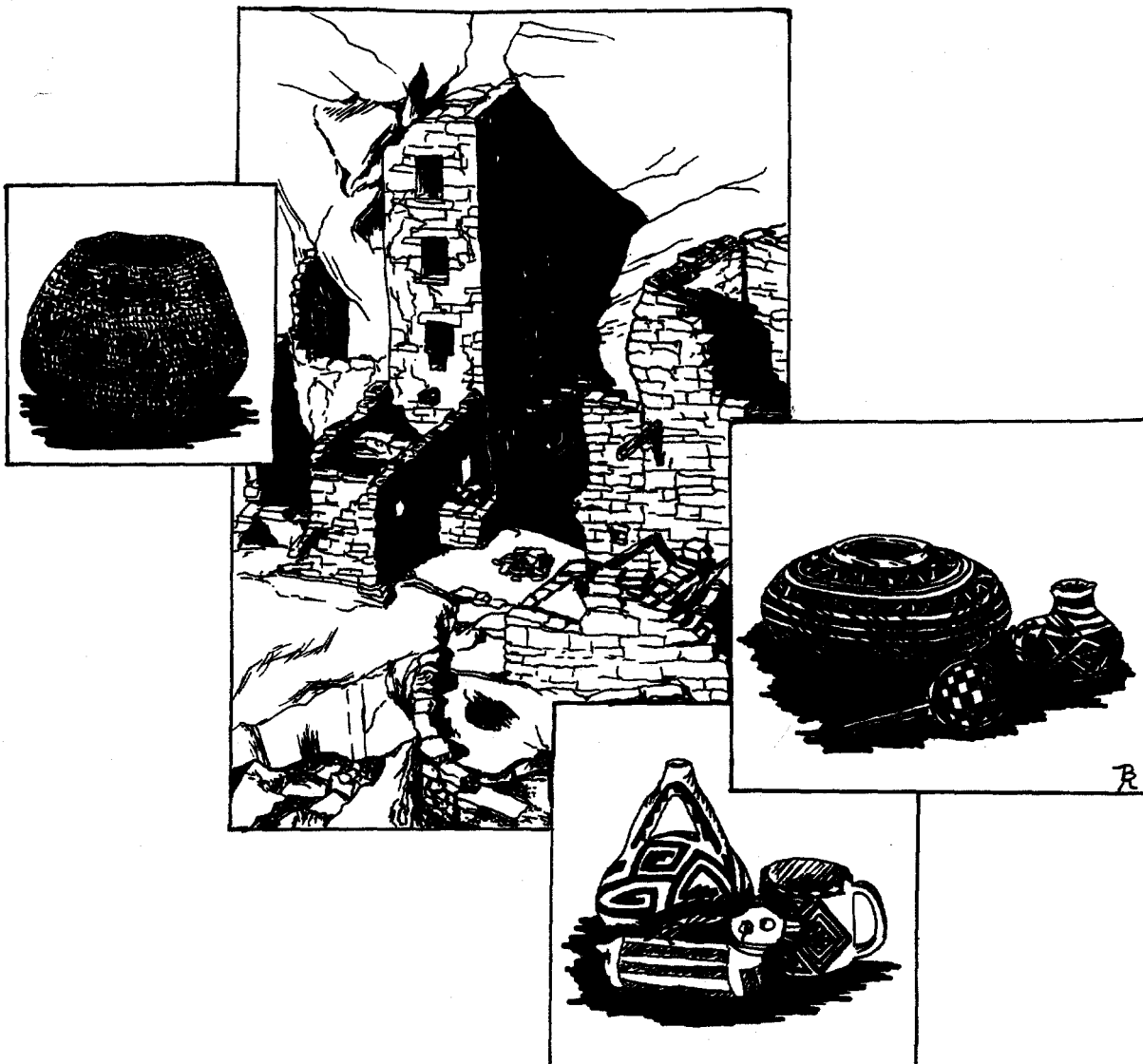
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Interpretive Prospectus

MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK

Colorado

1993



**A PLAN FOR
THE INTERPRETATION OF**

MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK

COLORADO

**prepared by the
Division of Interpretive Planning
Harpers Ferry Center
Harpers Ferry,
West Virginia**

**approved by
Regional Director Robert M. Baker
May 6, 1993**

"Al Wetherill, one of the brothers who brought these ruins to public attention in the 1890's, commented several generations ago: 'It is strange how unobserving some people are, or what little impression the Mesa Verde leaves upon them.' Its vastness, he believed, contributed to the visitors' failure to grasp the significance of the park. Mesa Verde has not yielded its rich treasures to a quick glance here and there in the rush to reach yet another vacation attraction. The park must be savored and pondered to be enjoyed.

It is difficult for us today to understand that the prehistoric world was very different indeed from ours. Failure to appreciate Mesa Verde comes from our inability to imagine what took place here so long ago in these canyons and mesas. Visitors need to renew their curiosity so that they can learn from what they see. Perhaps all of us need to look at it with the wondering, expectant, exploring mind of a child."

*Duane A. Smith
Mesa Verde National Park:
The Shadows of the Centuries
Lawrence, KS: University
Press of Kansas,
1988.*

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INTRODUCTION

The Park in Perspective

Mesa Verde National Park lies in extreme southwestern Colorado near the Four Corners area, where the states of Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico meet. The entire park, 52,073.62 acres in size, is situated within Montezuma County in Colorado's Third Congressional District. Physiographically, the park lies within the Canyonlands District of the Colorado Plateau Province. It is bounded on the south and west by the Ute Mountain Indian Reservation, on the north by the Montezuma Valley, and on the east by the Mancos River with the entire width of the river included within the park boundaries.

The major physical feature of the park is a plateau or tableland, known as the Mesa Verde. This tableland is an erosional remnant rising 1,500 to 2,000 feet above the surrounding Dolores Plateau. During the erosional process, the Mesa Verde has been intricately dissected by numerous steep-walled canyons. The slope of the uplands conforms to the dip of the resistant sandstone beds that underlie it. Viewed from Park Point on the northern edge, the surface slopes southward in a slightly dish-shaped configuration from an elevation of about 8,600 feet in the north to 6,000 feet in the southern part of the park. Steep cliffs, which descend into the narrow canyons--separating the finger-like projections of the mesa--contain numerous rock shelters, active springs, and seeps. One of the largest concentrations of prehistoric cultural sites lies within the southernmost one-third of the park.

The primary purpose of Mesa Verde National Park as stated in the June 29, 1906, enabling legislation (34 Stat. 616) is to preserve "from injury or spoilation of the ruins and other works and relics of prehistoric or primitive man" within the established boundaries.

Additional lands were added to Mesa Verde by an Act of Congress on June 20, 1913. This act modified the park's boundary to include a number of the larger cliff dwellings that had been left out of the original park bill.

A June 25, 1910, Act (36 Stat. 796) gives the Secretary of the Interior the authority to grant leases and permits for the use of the land or development of the resources within Mesa Verde National Park. Such leases or permits, however, cannot "include any of the prehistoric ruins of the park or exclude the public from free or convenient access thereto."

Under the National Park Service's Organic Act of 1916 (P.L. 235, 39 Stat. 535), the purpose was expanded to "... conserve the scenery, natural and historic objects and wildlife" and to provide for their enjoyment in a manner that would leave them unimpaired for future generations.

On May 2, 1927, the State of Colorado ceded to the United States exclusive jurisdiction over the area included within Mesa Verde National Park [except the rights: to serve civil or criminal process; of taxation; and to vote]. This was accepted by the United States on April 25, 1928 (Ch. 434, 1, 45 Stat. 458).

For purposes of protecting the scenery along the Point Lookout Road, a strip of land including the road was added by executive proclamation (Feb. 26, 1931, Ch. 308, 1, 46 Stat. 1422).

The park theme as stated in the 1970 *National Park System Plan, Part I: History* [by theme, sub-theme, and prime facet] is the "*The Original Inhabitants, Native Villages and Communities of the Southwestern United States.*"

On September 8, 1978, Mesa Verde National Park was designated a World Heritage Cultural Site as part of the World Heritage Convention. The Convention, formed in 1972 is under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization [the United States became a signatory to the Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage on December 17, 1975]. The purpose of the Convention is to recognize natural and cultural areas around the world which have outstanding value or importance to all humankind. Areas so designated must be preserved as part of the global heritage.

For the purposes of protecting certain areas of the park in a wilderness status, Congress set aside 8,100 acres (P.L. 94-567, 90 Stat. 2692) under the provisions of the Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 890). However, the backcountry of the park has been closed since 1906 for the protection of prehistoric ruins, making this perhaps the only wilderness within the National Park System closed to public use.

The relevance of Mesa Verde National Park lies in the number and remarkable state of preservation of the archeological remnants found within the park. The park contains more than 4,000 archeological sites, ranging from simple single-room pithouses to complex multistoried cliff dwellings containing several hundred rooms. The peak populations within what is now Mesa Verde National Park may have been as many as 4,000-5,000 people. These dwellings, together with the objects of everyday life found in the area, document the continuous cultural development of the prehistoric people referred to as the Anasazi, the "ancient ones", for a nine century period from approximately A.D. 500 to about A.D. 1300.

The cultural remains within the park demonstrate the cultural evolution of the Anasazi from hunters and gatherers to a point when they could manipulate their environment to produce food to support large populations. They show the development of architecture from one-room shelters to large communities. The development of crafted, decorated useful implements [such as baskets, and pottery from the early crude ware to the finely crafted, distinctive Mesa Verde decorated black on white pottery] was a significant cultural accomplishment. In addition to pottery, these people made fine jewelry and several kinds of baskets and sandals.

Although the architecture, basketry, pottery, and jewelry of Mesa Verde are unique, perhaps one of the most significant and least understood aspects is the complex social and religious organization that would have been necessary to achieve all that was accomplished at Mesa Verde.

The Planning Context

This interpretive prospectus has been written to guide specific media planners and designers in the development and implementation of subsequent media production plans. It will further provide guidance for park managers and interpretive program managers by identifying and delineating the various elements of this

prospectus into manageable phases within reasonable time frames. It is also intended to provide the context and additional details for The Friends of Mesa Verde group who will be involved with fund raising efforts for the proposed new Entrance Visitor Center.

When portions of the plan become feasible and are implemented, appropriate specialists will be involved in the planning process. Accessibility will be specifically addressed. Conservation/compliance concerns for historic structures and artifacts will be addressed.

This prospectus is based on, flows from, and/or is related to the following Mesa Verde planning documents and studies:

- *General Management Plan*, approved by Acting Regional Director Glen T. Bean on May 17, 1979;
- *Statement for Management*, approved by Regional Director Lorraine Mintzmeyer on March 27, 1991;
- *Cultural Resource Management Plan*, revised and approved in September, 1984; however, is currently being revised and combined with the Natural Resource Management Plan; this revised, combined draft plan is currently "in progress" and undergoing review;
- *Natural Resources Management Plan*, approved on July 12, 1983; please see the note above concerning the "in-progress", combined revision park's Natural and Cultural Resource Management Plan;
- *Land Protection Plan*, finalized and approved on June 1, 1985;
- *Park Entrance Comprehensive Design Plan*, approved by Regional Director Lorraine Mintzmeyer on March 18, 1988;
- *Wetherill Mesa Development Concept Plan*, approved by Jack Neckels on November 11, 1988;
- *Scope of Collection Statement*, completed and approved in 1986;
- *Park Collections Management Plan*, completed and approved in June, 1988;
- current *Annual Statement for Interpretation and Visitor Services*, approved by Jack Neckels on March 16, 1990;
- *Visitor Services Project Report 13, Mesa Verde National Park*, issued April, 1988.

However, the most significant factors driving the need for a new parkwide Interpretive Prospectus are the following two documents, which have outdated the park's current Interpretive Prospectus [approved February 26, 1981]:

- the March, 1988 *Environmental Assessment for the Park Entrance Comprehensive Design Plan*;
- the May, 1988 *Wetherill Mesa Development Concept Plan and Environmental Assessment*.

The former has identified the need for a new visitor center near the park entrance to provide visitors with orientation, information, and interpretation immediately upon entering the park instead of driving 15 to 20 miles into the park. The latter opens the 13-mile Wetherill Mesa access road to private vehicular access and specifies increased interpretation, orientation, and visitor services at the tram station or interpretive plaza to serve Wetherill Mesa visitors.

However, the park lacks several completed plans and studies necessary for full implementation of a parkwide interpretive prospectus. Specifically, these are:

- Parkwide Visitor Use Plan;
- Parkwide Transportation Plan;
- Additional Visitor Experience/Expectation Studies, including:
 - Visitor Exit Surveys/Studies,
 - Visitors' Perceptions of Crowding Studies,
 - Needs Assessments for Elderly Visitors;
- Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum Accessibility Study and Plan;
- Visitor Impacts and Carrying Capacity Studies on all ruins open to visitors, especially those on Chapin Mesa [Spruce Tree House, Cliff Palace, and Balcony House], and existing visitor use facilities, especially the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum;
- Several archeological research studies currently in progress at the Cooperative Park Studies Unit at Northern Arizona University, Marty Lee, principal investigator.

Summary of Planning Considerations

Several significant planning considerations, concepts, and constraints have guided and/or influenced the thinking of this interpretive prospectus team and its development of many of the interpretive media/facility prescriptions.

The 1980 Mesa Verde Interpretive Prospectus was outdated by the concepts and provisions of the two 1988 documents mentioned above, the Park Entrance

Comprehensive Design Plan and the Wetherill Mesa Development Concept Plan and they had a major influence on the entire planning process.

Originally, the park was scheduled for a major media rehabilitation plan addressing needed changes and upgrading of media for Far View Visitor Center, a parkwide wayside exhibit system, and the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum. However, the outdatedness of the park's Interpretive Prospectus justified a complete new prospectus for Mesa Verde National Park. In fact, the need was so compelling that park management contributed \$12,000 in extra funding to make the new prospectus possible.

The historic Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum has a special atmosphere, integrity, and ambience. Therefore, all interpretive treatment proposals for this interpretive facility must assure that a special sensitivity be exercised to avoid compromising this museum's essential character, nature, and integrity. Thus a refurbishing of these exhibits, rather than a more extensive rehabilitation, would most likely be the desirable interpretive treatment.

For the most part, Mesa Verde National Park's roles as the first cultural park in our National Park System and as a World Heritage Site have not been adequately interpreted. It is important to address these noteworthy distinctions, in addition to the park's outstanding prehistoric cultural resources.

Of necessity, the team devoted special attention to addressing the need of providing accessibility for disabled visitors to park facilities, features, and resources. Accessibility in Federal facilities is mandated by the 1968 Architectural Barriers Act, which requires physical access in all new construction and renovation projects, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended in 1978), which requires access to agency programs and services. The passage of the 1990 Americans With Disabilities Act (although not directly applicable to Federal agencies) has also brought renewed focus to the issue of accessibility.

The problem of providing access while still maintaining the integrity of the park's irreplaceable prehistoric resources, especially the cliff dwellings and the multistoried rim-top pueblos has been compounded by a number of characteristics:

- remote locations;
- for some cliff dwellings, restricted accessibility for any visitor;
- the varied lengths and levels of difficulty of trail approaches;

- multiple, irregular levels within ruins;
- extremely irregular terrain throughout much of the park;
- the vulnerable, fragile nature of these ruins.

The challenge for the team was to adhere to our own National Park Service cultural resources management policy mandate providing the *highest* level of access to these cultural properties with *lowest* level of acceptable impact. The level of concern about meeting this need was great enough to add an Accessibility Specialist to the complement of our team.

The development of the new Entrance Visitor Center, including the development and installation of interpretive media, will be dependent upon a major fund raising effort of approximately \$7 million by The Friends of Mesa Verde group. That amount will need to be supported by an additional estimated \$7 million in appropriated National Park Service funds.

AREA SIGNIFICANCE AND PARK RESOURCES

Park Significance

The significance of Mesa Verde National Park is not based solely upon its size and the high visibility of its many cliff dwellings. The park is one of the largest archeological preserves in the United States and contains the greatest concentration of cliff dwellings ever found in a single location. Of the nearly 4000 sites which have been located within the park, over 600 of them are cliff dwellings.

Mesa Verde was one of the focal points of the northern San Juan Anasazi (Pueblo) Culture that existed for over a thousand years in the geographic region which we now know as the Four Corners area. Over a century of archeological investigations have taken place at Mesa Verde. These investigations have varied from simple records kept by the Wetherill family who collected artifacts, to very detailed excavations and technical reports by both scientists from universities and institutions, and National Park Service personnel who have worked in the park for a number of decades.

From the technical excavations with their subsequent studies and reports, anthropologists have been able to reconstruct much of the life of the ancient Puebloan farmers who lived here for over seven centuries in what many would consider a rather harsh environment. These people became so skillful in learning how to survive that they managed to expand from a hunting/gathering culture to a very complex society with thousands of people. Their success was attributable in part to their favorable natural environment [i.e., topography, climate, and flora and fauna]. It was equally attributable in part to their environmental adaptability and their ability to grow domesticated crops such as corn, beans, and squash.

The great significance of the park was further recognized in September 1978, when it was selected as one of the first seven cultural sites in the world to be designated a World Heritage Cultural Site. It was specifically included in this

select group because of the importance of the ancient Puebloan Culture that flourished at Mesa Verde between the 6th and 13th centuries.

Cultural Resources

Although Mesa Verde National Park's significant cultural resources include both prehistoric and historic features, its primary emphasis is archeological.

Prehistoric Resources. Mesa Verde's archeological sites are representative of the Mesa Verde Branch Anasazi culture. Within the park, there are more than 4000 archeological sites ranging from simple one-room pithouses to complex cliff dwellings containing several hundred rooms. In addition to the thousands of living rooms and storage rooms, many archeological sites include ceremonial structures known as kivas and great kivas, petroglyph sites, hand and toehold access trails, and possibly complex water storage and distribution systems. *Map 1, Density of Archeological Sites at Mesa Verde National Park*, on page 11, shows those areas of the park with the greatest concentrations of these varied archeological sites. From these sites has come an abundance of wood, stone, bone, clay, and fiber artifacts, which--in combination with human physical remains--have been of inestimable worth to archeologists in deciphering the drama of man's existence here.

As the Mesa Verde Branch developed and changed, its sphere of influence and area of occupation expanded. The greatest distinction of these people lies in the massive, multistoried buildings they constructed, and the excellence of their stone masonry. Their proficiency in crafts, especially in pottery making, was equal to the nearby Chaco and Kayenta branches of the Anasazi culture.

The period from A.D. 1100 to A.D. 1300, which is called the Pueblo III or Great Pueblo Period, was the *Golden Age* of Mesa Verde culture. The largest of the Great Pueblo villages was Cliff Palace, which had approximately 217 rooms including 23 kivas. This village was four stories high in places and may have housed as many as 200 people. Other major prehistoric sites in the park include Long House, Spruce Tree House, Square Tower House, Balcony House, New Fire House, Fire Temple, Oak Tree House, Mummy House, Far View Ruins, Mug House, Step House, Big Juniper House, Badger House Community, Jug House, Kodak House, Spring House, Sunset House, Pipe Shrine House, and Mummy Lake.

Mesa Verde National Park is the one of the largest of the archeological resource areas in the National Park System. These non-renewable resources become scientifically more valuable with the passage of time and with the loss of archeological resources in nearby areas. Examples of the houses, tools, and clothing of the Mesa Verde people are on exhibit in the park. Nowhere else in the United States is the sequence of pre-Columbian architectural development so completely displayed as on the Ruins Road Drive on Chapin Mesa and at the Badger House Community walk on Wetherill Mesa. Nineteen major cliff dwellings and surface pueblos have been excavated, stabilized, and made available for visitation on Chapin and Wetherill Mesas.

Historic Resources. Fewkes Cabin, an early park ranger station and museum (1916), was refitted for adaptive use in 1991 as a technical work station for the park's Geographic Information System (GIS) program.

The historic Mesa Verde Ranger Club has been recently renovated and was used during the summer of 1991 for public display of the Nordenskiöld Centennial Exhibit. The refurbished building is now being used to house the collections of the Mesa Verde Research Library.

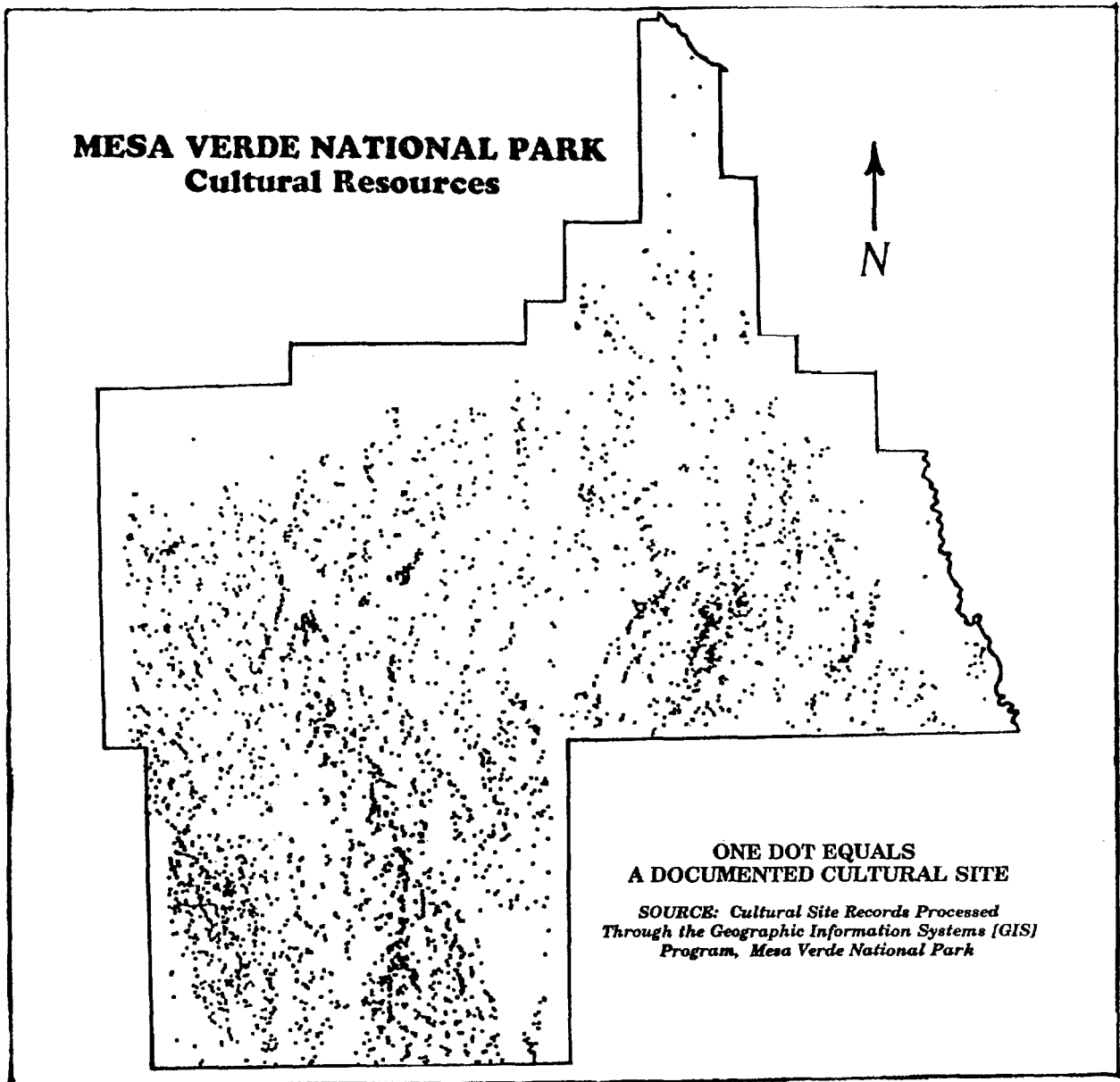
Both of these projects--the Fewkes Cabin and the Ranger Club--follow Mesa Verde's longstanding tradition and philosophy of adaptive use of the park's important historic structures.

All of Mesa Verde's historic buildings are included in the park's List of Classified Structures. The Mesa Verde Administrative Historic District, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on May 28, 1987 [see Map #3, page 37] and is concurrently a National Historic Landmark, includes such structures as: the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum, the post office, the Ranger Club, ranger dorms, the former park hospital [now the Spruce Tree Terrace], the old community center building, the Fewkes Cabin, the superintendent's residence, several other park staff residences, and numerous other smaller structures.

Collections and Libraries. The park's collections contain over 1.5 million objects, including:

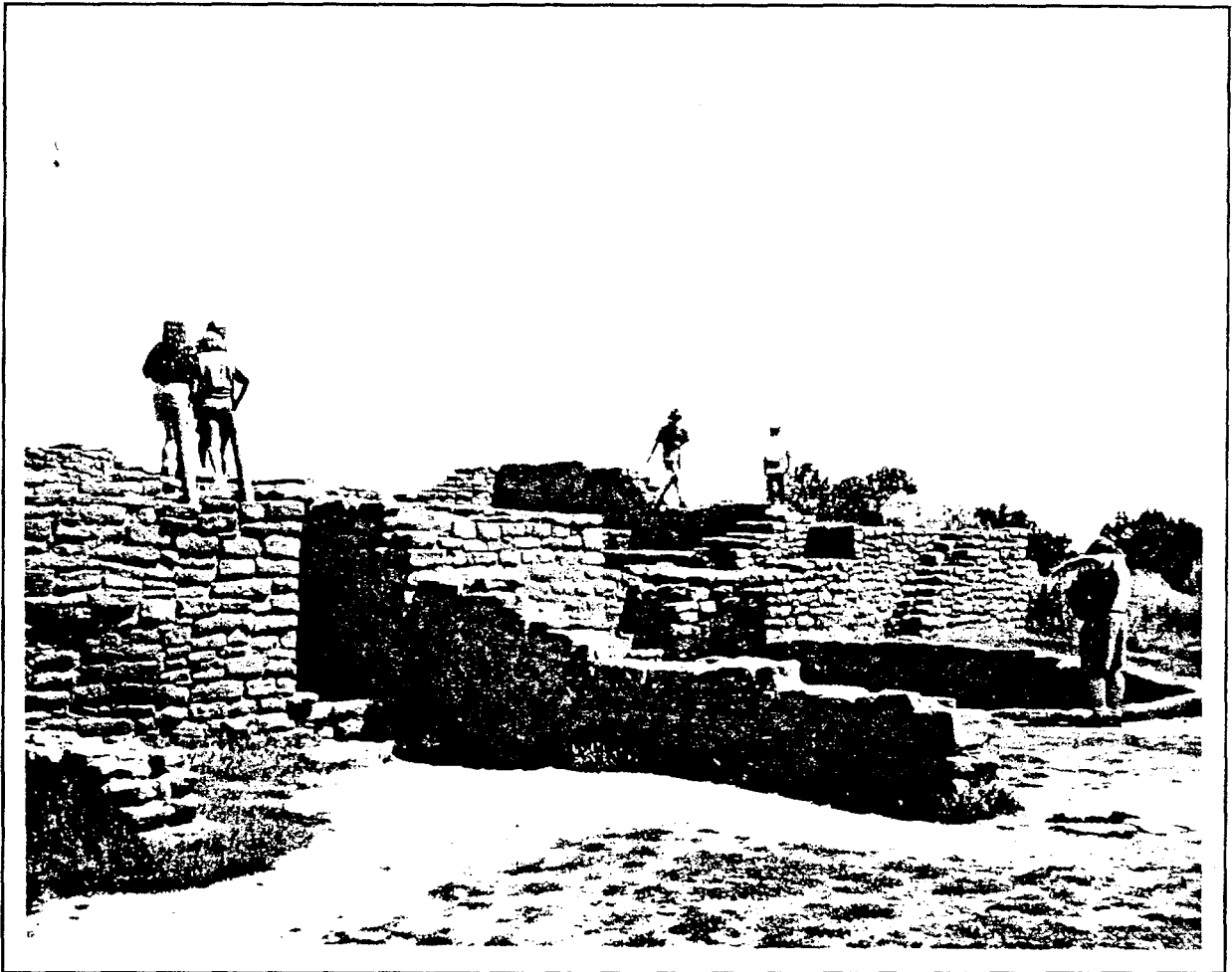
- park collections, such as historic photos and material dating back to the discovery of these cliff dwellings in the 1880's;
- a tremendous assortment of catalogued artifacts such as pottery, pot shards, stone and bone tools, fibrous material, burial artifacts, etc.;

Map 1
Density of Archeological
Sites at Mesa Verde National Park



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Illustration 1
Far View Ruin on
Chapin Mesa, with Park Visitors



- original excavation field notes;
- approximately 300,000 objects collected from the scientific excavations on Wetherill Mesa;
- park photo files;
- historic maps;
- historic Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) archives;
- park herbarium;
- park entomology collection;
- park mammal collection;
- historic Indian arts and crafts items, such as pottery and rugs.

All of the listed collections, including objects from many earlier excavations and collections from other sites in the region, are retained and maintained in the Research Center. The park's photo (print) collections are stored and maintained in the historic Ranger Club, along with the main park library and records/document collection.

The main park library contains over 9000 volumes. A small secondary reference library is located in the park's Research Laboratory, and mainly consists of working documents, such as site reports, field analysis documents from surrounding areas, and all of the park's unpublished manuscripts.

This library serves a wide variety of needs. It is a resource upon which the entire staff has grown to depend. Since a large portion of the library is devoted to relevant general references to Southwest archeology, anthropology, ethnology, and natural history, it is a resource used by a great variety of researchers, regionally and nationally. The library is also the repository for the studies and investigations completed by researchers working on projects within the Mesa Verde National Park. Finally, a smaller number of rare and valuable historic volumes are responsibly stored in the park's museum vault.

Natural Resources

The natural history of the Mesa Verde strongly influenced Anasazi cultural development. Geology, geography, vegetation, climate, and wildlife were daily concerns that were dealt with by means of religious ceremonies, traditions, and relatively simple technology. On the Mesa Verde, the Anasazi apparently were successful in the adaptations to the environment until environmental and perhaps

social conditions changed significantly. One can only speculate about the environmental pressures--perhaps a major drought, other technical reasons, and religious reasons for the abandonment of the Mesa Verde. A reflective observation may be appropriate here. In probing such unknowns as these, perhaps we may find a parallel to our own environmental concerns, an association between the probable impending crisis we face today, and the one apparently faced by the Anasazi nearly 700 years ago. This is the essence of one of the park's key interpretive thrusts.

Flora. Generally speaking, vegetation in Mesa Verde is typical of the piñon-juniper zone of the high arid plateau country of the southwest, and is unique for the general area because livestock grazing has been effectively prevented in most areas of the park for nearly 40 years. However, due to the factors of variation of temperature, moisture and soil, three major plant communities exist within the park: the mountain shrub, the piñon-juniper, and the Big sagebrush. Each major plant community possesses distinctly different characteristics and each offers important relationships in the total ecosystem of the area. In addition to these three zones, significant groves of larger trees are found where winter snowfall is heaviest and moisture is more abundant. Groves of Douglas fir stand high along upper canyons, on the steep northern escarpment, and in moisture rich canyon bottoms. Ponderosa pine dot the Morefield Canyon. Aspen grow in isolated groves above 8,000 feet elevation. Climax vegetation varies from the Gambel oak, grasses, and mountain shrub vegetation to a mature piñon pine and Utah juniper forest and Douglas fir groves.

For the most part, the *mountain shrub community* spans the entire width of the park parallel to the park's north rim, and extends several miles downslope to the south. Dominant species for this community are mountain mahogany, serviceberry, fendler bush, and Gambel oak. This zone is a favorite habitat for the Rocky Mountain mule deer during much of the year, but in winter is usually deeply snow covered. Oak and other vegetal materials from the zone provided the prehistoric residents of the Mesa Verde with food and raw materials.

The dominant, most extensive vegetative community of Mesa Verde is the *piñon-juniper forest*, which extends from the 7,800 feet elevation in the north all the way to the park's southern boundary. It covers nearly all the mesas and many of the slopes of the upper canyons. Both of these tree species were extensively used by the Anasazi for house construction support timbers, firewood, a variety of tools, food [piñon nuts and juniper berries], and medicinal purposes. In addition, the

soil of this forest zone, a rich loam containing windblown red loess, is excellent for agriculture. The piñon-juniper forest is comparatively dense with abundant down timber and mutton grass making it especially vulnerable to the plentiful lightning strikes which the Mesa Verde experiences every year.

The final major plant zone is the canyon-bottom dwelling *Big sagebrush community*. The abundant gray-green Big sagebrush, the dominant indicator plant of this community, is also the climax plant of the canyon bottoms and in a few disturbed areas elsewhere on the mesa. Cacti, cheatgrass, and a variety of flowering plants grow interspersed among the sagebrush. The Big sagebrush also grows in and around most large mesatop ruins, such as the Far View Ruins.

A study of the status of rare, endangered, and threatened plant species in the park, conducted in 1979-1980, identified three rare species--Schmoll milk vetch (*Astragalus schmollae*), Cliff Palace milk vetch (*Astragalus deterior*), and false forget-me-not (*Hackelia gracilentia*).

Fauna. Mesa Verde, in relatively isolated uplands, has a moderately diversified animal population. For the prehistoric Pueblo residents of the Mesa Verde, these animals constituted a valuable resource from which they could fashion tools and clothing, and harvest food.

Large mammals found in the park include Rocky Mountain mule deer, bighorn sheep, mountain lions, coyotes, bobcats, and gray foxes. Black bear and elk have been occasionally observed. Common small animals include gray rock squirrels, chipmunks, and cottontail rabbits.

Wild turkeys, once native to Mesa Verde, were reestablished in 1990. Presently the birds are located in the upper sections of Morefield and Prater Canyons. The park habitat supports approximately 175 species of birds that are either permanent nesting populations or frequent seasonal residents of the park.

The *Checklist of Birds of Mesa Verde National Park, 1986*, lists two endangered species, the prairie falcon and the peregrine falcon, and one threatened species, the southern bald eagle. A threatened species of the spotted owl has been found nesting in the park.

PUBLICS AND PUBLIC USE

Public Use

In spite of Mesa Verde National Park's international renown for its world class cliff dwellings and other prehistoric ruins, it is still largely an *itinerary park* rather than a *destination park*. That is, it's a planned stop on a vacation trip, and not the ultimate destination. However, a significant number of regional residents from the surrounding Southwestern United States visit the park as a specific goal. Many of these regional visitors make it their actual destination park. Additionally, the park undoubtedly will become a focal point on the planned Pueblo trail.

It also remains primarily a day use area during the summer when both the Morefield Campground and the Far View Lodge are in full operation. During this period, approximately 65% of the visiting public spends less than one full day in the park. The average amount of time spent by summer visitors is approximately seven hours. However, if visitors spend at least a day in the park, they are more likely to spend two days [19% of visitors] in the park than just one day [13% of visitors]. Many of these visitors stay in lodging in neighboring communities to the park. Most campers staying in Morefield Campground use it as a base for park explorations during an extended stay of more than two days, including hiking the available trails.

During the summer, about 25% of the visiting public stays inside the park at least for one night; about 10% of the visiting public stays more than one night.

The park's overnight accommodations are not winterized, and thus are closed in off-season. Therefore from November to April, when 8% to 10% of the annual visitation occurs, the park is solely a day use area. During these winter months, the average length of stay for a park visitor is about 3 to 4 hours.

During this winter season, the percentage of adults [including senior citizens] increases from 70% to 85%, and the dominant group affiliation switches from the nuclear family to couples [35% of all the visiting public in the winter]. International visitation increases from 13% to 30% of total park travel during the winter. However, perhaps the most dramatic change in public use patterns during

the winter is in their use of Interpretive and Visitor Services programs where attendance at personally presented programs jumps from 30% to 70%.

Additionally, the park staff has noted that the yearly public use profile for the park recently has been changing. It consistently has resulted in increased public use during the "shoulder months" of April-May and September-October.

Public use of the park reached a numerical peak of 772,183 in 1988. However, the park's multiplier factor was reevaluated and reduced during 1989, as reflected in that year's reported annual travel of 600,045. Annual public use for the most recent complete year [1990] was 611,375, which represented a 2% increase.

Projected annual visitation for the year 2000, based on a modest 4% annual increase, would be 940,000. That figure represents a 54% increase over the annual public use for the calendar year 1990.

Observations by the park's interpretive staff, as reflected in their 1990 *Statement for Interpretation and Visitor Services*, indicate that about 5% to 6% of Mesa Verde's public use is by organized groups. During the summer season, these are general organized groups who mostly use non-personal media such as wayside exhibits, museum exhibits, and publications. During the Spring *shoulder season*, these organized groups consist mostly of school classes studying the park's prehistoric culture. Senior citizen groups dominate the organized groups during the rapidly increasing fall *shoulder season*.

The 1987 *Visitor Services Project, Mesa Verde National Park* survey helped quantify several other aspects of the nature of the park's public use during the summer use season, as follows:

- members of the public were most likely to visit the park in a nuclear family group of two to four people;
- nearly three-fourths of visitors were making their first visit to the park;
- the dominant places of origin were Colorado [16%], Texas [11%], California [9%], Arizona [5%], and Germany [4%];

The 1987 Visitor Services Project [VSP] also revealed the percentage of all surveyed visitors using each park facility or feature, as follows:

- Cliff Palace on Chapin Mesa, 73%;
- Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum, 73%;
- Spruce Tree House on Chapin Mesa, 66%;

- Far View Visitor Center, 62%;
- Balcony House on Chapin Mesa, 49%;
- Mesa Top Ruins Loop Road on Chapin Mesa, 47%;
- Long House on Wetherill Mesa, 16%;
- Badger House Community on Wetherill Mesa, 15%;
- Step House on Wetherill Mesa, 13%.

The 1987 VSP further confirmed staff observations about public use of the Far View Visitor Center as the initial stop for park visitors. Less than one-half of all visitors, only 41%, stopped first at Far View Visitor Center.

Park staff notes that automobile *gridlock* commonly occurs during peak summer public use in the immediate vicinity of the Cliff Palace parking lot and the park headquarters area on Chapin Mesa.

As would be expected, the consequence of overflowing parking lots and *gridlock* along park roads is an undesirable overload of park resources and facilities. These overloads, in turn, seriously impact both the quality of visitor experiences and the park's irreplaceable prehistoric resources. Therefore, park management is beginning to explore effective ways of limiting park visitation.

Special Populations

Public use by members of the public with impairments is reported to be relatively limited. It is estimated that approximately 1% of the visiting public during the summer season is disabled, yet that constitutes a group of over 6000 people. During the winter, reported public use by disabled individuals is nearly nonexistent.

Children, youths and young adults constitute 30% of all public use during the summer season, but only 15% of public use during the winter months.

Identified minority public use represented 4% of total visitation during the summer season, and only 1% of all visitors during the winter months.

Undoubtedly, the most notable characteristic of special populations public use is international visitation, especially those from Germany. During the summer

season, 17% of all visitors were international in origin, which increased to 30% during the off-season winter months.

Based on the 1987 Visitor Services Project findings, the park's international visitors came from Canada and ten different European countries including Germany. In addition to Germany, significant visitation originated in the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Italy, Canada, and Austria. It is significant to note that, unlike a number of other National Park System areas in the American West, few Japanese nationals visit this park.

During 1990, based on the current Statement for Management, four percent of all visitors or approximately 24,000 persons were from Germany.

According to the 1987 Visitor Services Project findings, nearly 50% of all foreign visitation during the summer season came from Germany. During the winter months, the percentage increases to approximately 60% of all foreign visitation. Park staff believes that such a high incidence of visitation by German nationals is based largely upon the following factors:

- the strength of the German Deutsche Mark;
- the intense German interest in things scientific;
- the German fascination with the many facets of the American West story.

Conclusions for Interpretation

Development should provide for the particular needs for as wide a variety of Mesa Verde National Park's visitors as possible. Interpretation needs to be developed for the extended-stay visitors and the repeat visitors as well as for first-time visitors [especially those one-time visitors staying in the park for only part of one day]. Those in the first group primarily will need both basic orientation and context-setting interpretive media and services. Visitors in each of the last two groups additionally will need *in-depth* interpretive media and services.

The need for an effective initial orientation/interpretation center has been verified by the 1987 visitor survey and confirms the need for a new visitor center at or near the park entrance, as proposed in the 1988 *Park Entrance Comprehensive Design Plan*. This situation results in visitors driving a minimum of 15 miles into the park without information on available services and points of interest. This is especially problematic during the winter months when the entrance gate is not

staffed and the visiting public must drive 21 miles to get orientation information, including information on seasonal closures of sites and facilities.

Primary interpretation/orientation facilities must be provided for visitors year-round. Therefore, the proposed new Park Entrance Visitor Center also must be planned, developed, and staffed. Its operation must be augmented by continued year-round staffing and operation of the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum.

Interpretive/information media will be needed to help mitigate the impacts of the overload of visitors on park resources and facilities. Many of these impacted features and facilities are located on Chapin Mesa. The most heavily impacted areas on Chapin Mesa, often with traffic patterns resulting in *gridlock*, are:

- the vicinity of the Cliff Palace parking area;
- the trail to and through Cliff Palace ruin;
- the public parts of the Park Headquarters developed area, especially the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum and its immediate environs.

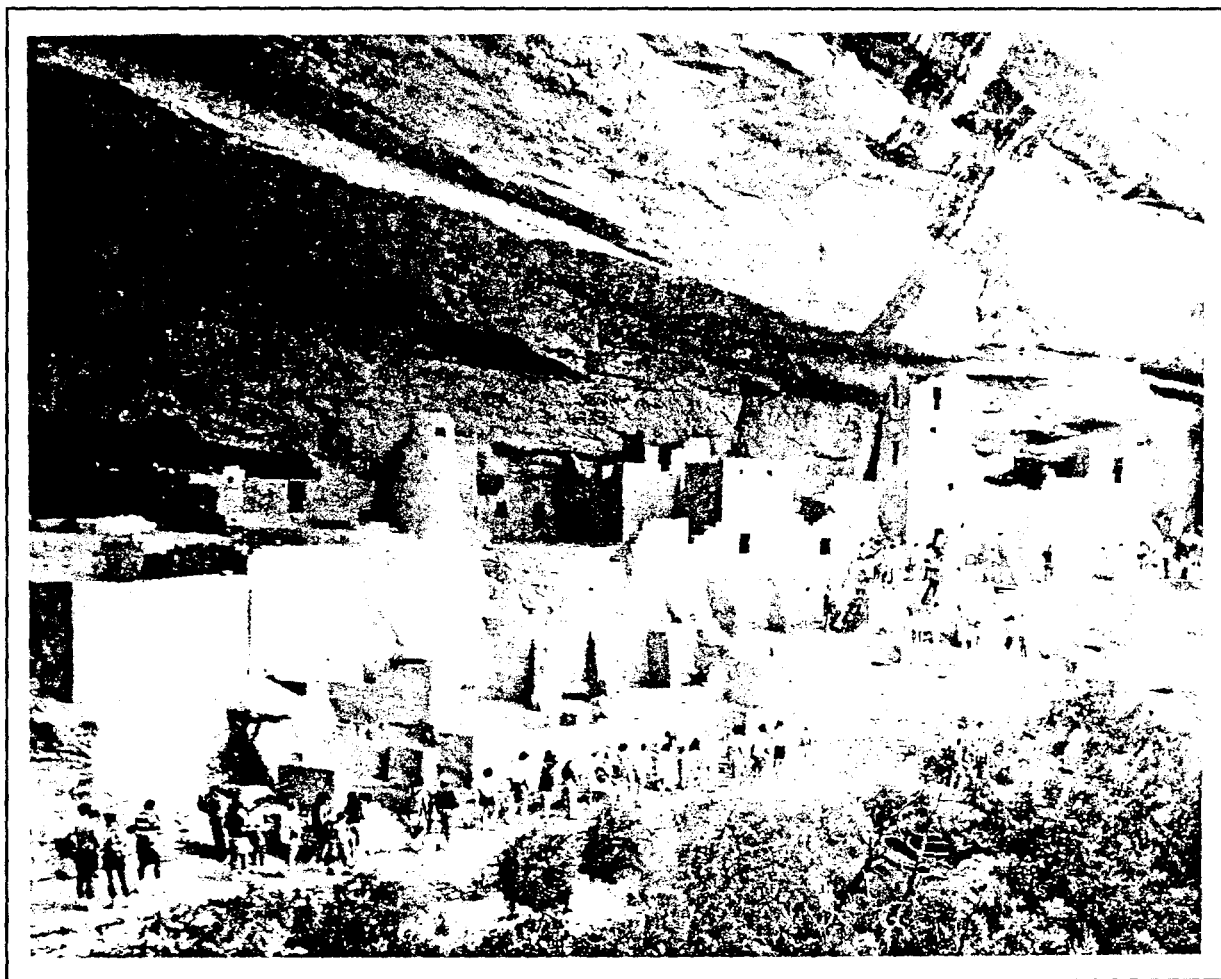
Interpretive media will be needed to help:

- divert visitors to alternate experience sites, including other developed archeological sites outside the Mesa Verde National Park boundaries, when visitor overload conditions exist;
- visitors understand the serious consequences of visitor use of features and facilities in excess of established carrying capacities.

Ultimately, interpretive media may also be called upon to provide surrogate experiences, if and when even the alternate destinations are saturated.

The findings of the 1987 visitor services survey have also shown that neither the 1972 opening of Wetherill Mesa nor the opening of the Wetherill Mesa Road to private vehicles has relieved the intensive public use pressure on Chapin Mesa. As previously pointed out, intensive public use pressure degrades the quality of visitor experiences and impacts the park's irreplaceable prehistoric resources. Therefore, orientation/interpretation media must try to mitigate and diffuse this undesirable intensive public use pressure. However, it seems unrealistic to expect orientation/interpretation media to solve the complete problem.

Illustration 2
Cliff Palace, on Chapin Mesa,
with Constant, Heavy Summer Seasonal Visitor Use



Adequate facilities for group use at a new entrance visitor center must be considered, such as dual theaters, each with a seating capacity of 110, and a multipurpose room.

Continued provision of facilities and services, both by physical and alternative media programs accommodation, for special populations will need to be considered, especially those for mobility impaired and non-English speaking visitors.

The scope and quality of interpretive media and services should reflect the highest NPS standards. This is especially important considering the park's role in our global heritage as one of the first properties in the United States to be designated a World Heritage Cultural Site, as a part of the World Heritage Convention.

INFLUENCES AND CONSIDERATIONS AFFECTING INTERPRETATION

As the first and best known of the Cultural World Heritage properties in the United States, Mesa Verde National Park has significant influences and considerations, both internal and external, which affect this plan for the park's interpretive media and services.

External

The cultural heritage and resources of Mesa Verde National Park occupy a key role in the interpretation of the overall Anasazi story and need to be so considered in this document. Such consideration also needs to address the park's relationship to the nearby Hovenweep and Yucca House National Monuments, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's Anasazi Heritage Center at Dolores, Colorado, and consider its possible role and relationship with the proposed Anasazi National Monument.

This plan needs to continue to address the park's concern about the deteriorating air quality of the region surrounding the park.

The relationships with the immediate neighboring Ute Mountain tribe and the affects of its business enterprises, located immediately off the park's Cliff Palace/Balcony House Loop Road, need to be considered within the total scope of the visitor experience.

Internal

This prospectus recognizes that the approach to the interpretation of the Mesa Verde story has been dictated by the fact that material culture is all that remains within the park.

Therefore, we must rely on interpretive assumptions developed from ethnographic extrapolations, which in turn are based upon surviving elements of material culture. In the process of developing those extrapolations, we need to recognize the existence of several possible interpretations of Anasazi lifeways. The planning team has chosen an interpretive strategy that assumes that we start with the time of the earliest contact by European chroniclers with these Puebloan peoples. From that base we suggest using ethnographic comparisons to speculate upon prehistoric Anasazi cultures, especially for those who lived on the Mesa Verde.

This document also recognizes that the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum indeed is essentially, as the name states, a museum rather than a visitor center. It also emphatically recognizes the need to maintain its essential historical character, nature, and integrity. To retain and maintain that character and integrity, the museum should receive a treatment specifically addressing the following:

- correct textual errors;
- organize the existing exhibit elements in a more logical way;
- develop new mounts to eliminate or reduce physical stress on the display artifacts;
- provide any needed conservation of display artifacts;
- develop a readable type size and style, based on the best of the type faces currently used in the museum;
- facilitate better accessibility to the exhibits;
- redesign exhibit cases to protect vulnerable artifacts;
- remove artifact damaging materials from display cases;
- alter the lighting system to protect sensitive artifacts and enhance viewing.

The document needs to particularly treat the need to portray Mesa Verde's natural history through interpretive media because large, extensive concentrations of archeological resources throughout the park have closed much of the park's backcountry to visitors. To our knowledge, it is the only national park with a Congressionally designated Wilderness Area which is closed to the public. However, those limited trail corridors give a small number of park users a special opportunity for extended interaction with little seen park resources, both natural and cultural.

This prospectus definitely acknowledges that the closure of the backcountry to the public also exerts concentrated public use pressures on many of the developed areas and cultural sites open to the public. The park's interpretive staff and

interpretive media share the problem of general human impact on cultural sites, especially cliff dwellings.

Mesa Verde Museum Association, Inc., is a major partner with the park in providing interpretation and orientation for park visitors. The document recognizes the need to provide for the association's sales and storage requirements.

There would be definite ramifications and impacts upon the park's interpretation and interpretive media caused by any failure to positively provide for the adequate, environmentally controlled storage of the park's museum collections as well as some form of adequate environmental controls for exhibited artifacts in each of the park's exhibit facilities.

The planning team acknowledged a need to be particularly cognizant of a necessity to provide more alternatives for visitors with visual impairments, such as the use of tactile models and reproduction artifacts in museum exhibits.

In the interest of assuring that a new entrance visitor center will not necessarily hold visitors a long time, the team also acknowledges a need to plan and design interpretive media which will facilitate a smooth, but rather rapid visitor flow through the center [such as an AV production limited to 10 minutes or less, and exhibits which will interpret key concepts in a manner conducive to a relatively brief visit].

This plan will also need to address alternative experiences for those visitors who, because of time constraints, either may not be able or simply choose to spend at least four hours in the park to actually visit at least one the park's ruins.

There is a clearly defined need to interpretively treat the impact of the recurring cycles of fire on the area's environment and people, both historic and prehistoric.

EXISTING CONDITIONS, WITH A SUMMARY OF MEDIA PROBLEMS AND NEEDS

Existing Conditions

The current visitor experience at Mesa Verde National Park includes a variety of facilities and options, including nearly identical prehistoric resources open for visitation on both Wetherill Mesa and Chapin Mesa. Unfortunately, basic information/orientation services are not immediately available upon entering the park. *Map 2: Existing Interpretive Media at Mesa Verde National Park*, on page 31, shows the location and extent of the existing interpretive media within the park.

Upon entering the park, visitors receive the park unigrid folder and other appropriate written information at the entrance/fee collection station. The park's Travelers Information System [TIS], a low power AM radio broadcast transmitter located near the park entrance, is also available to assist the traveling public. This TIS continuously broadcasts current park travel information, such as: road and weather conditions, facilities and features open to the public, and schedule of visitor services and activities.

Seasonally, two other limited information/orientation facilities are available to visitors at or near the park entrance. From early March to late November a pair of park entrance stations, operated primarily for fee collection, secondarily provide rudimentary information/orientation services [including dispensing park folders after hours from brochure racks]. Additionally, a small ranger station at Morefield Campground, randomly operated during the summer months, provides some park information.

Even during the summer season [early May through late September], visitors cannot obtain detailed park orientation information until reaching Far View Visitor Center about 15 miles. Because of the park's winding, ascending entrance road, it takes 30 to 40 minutes of driving time to reach Far View. During the park's seven-month off-season, the only opportunity for detailed park orientation/

information is at Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum, located 21 miles and about a one hour drive from the park entrance. Since many off-season visitors fail to stop for information dispensed from racks, even though they are urged to do so by a large sign reading "Stop for Information", visitors often miss much the park has to offer under these conditions. Consequently, many uninformed visitors spend that hour driving only to find visitor facilities closed.

The circular Far View Visitor Center, open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. from early May to late September, provides the visiting public with:

- an orientation center for the park;
- an introduction to Wetherill Mesa;
- a Mesa Verde Museum Association display/sales area;
- a brief video on the park's Air Quality/Acid Precipitation monitoring project;
- a non-resource related ethnographic exhibit area.

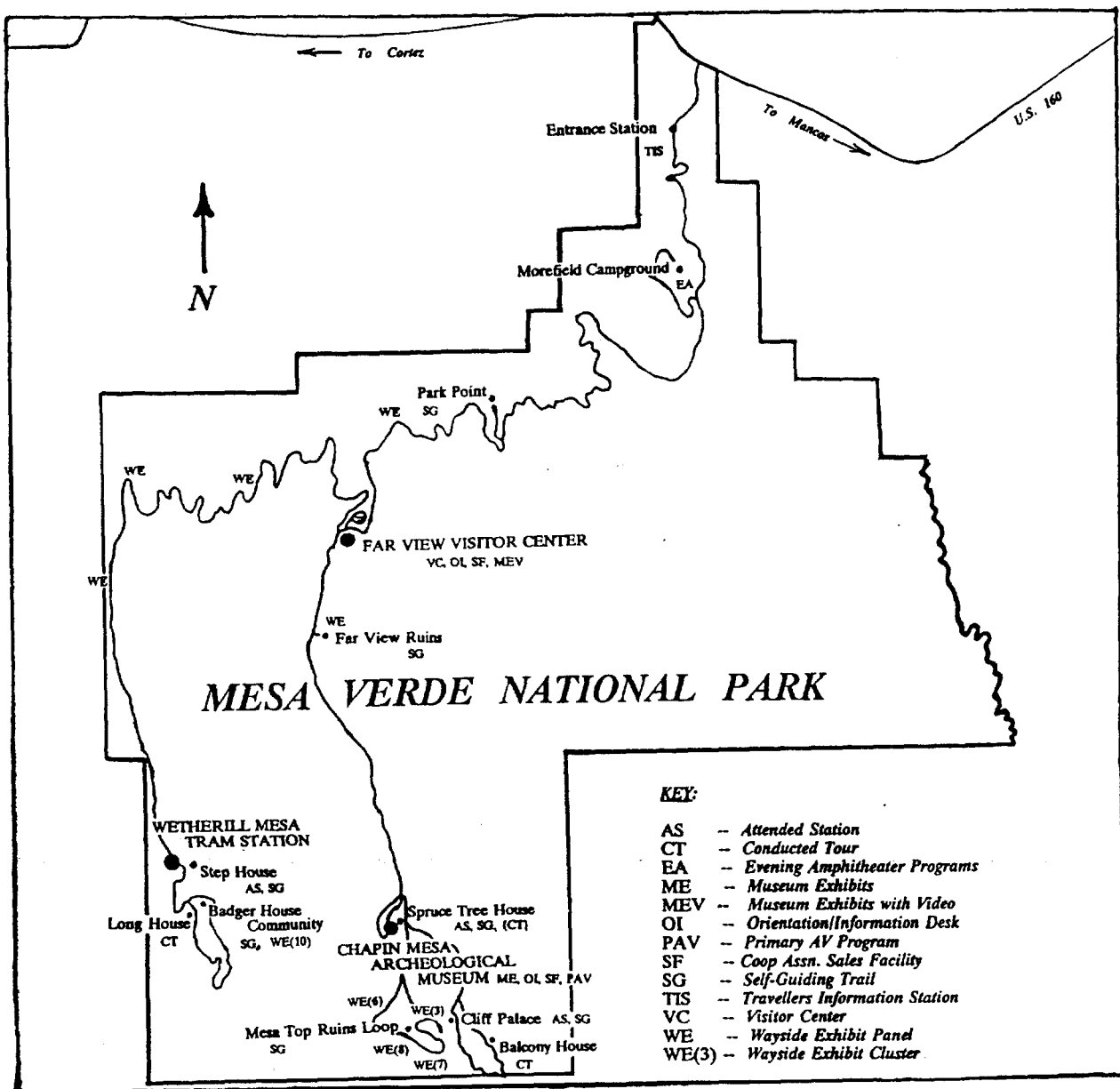
Park records indicate that only 35% of the park's summer visitors take advantage of the information, orientation and interpretive services offered at Far View Visitor Center. Therefore, it is only partially successful as Mesa Verde's orientation center, for a variety of reasons. The chief among the reasons for its limited success are:

- that adequate parking is not apparent to many visitors, even though ample parking is located across the busy entrance road with pedestrian underpass access to the visitor center;
- a great lack of site specific, resource related exhibits.

For the past five summer seasons, the 13-mile Wetherill Mesa Access Road has been open to private automobile traffic. From the terminus of that access road, the Service provides access to the concentrated archeological resources area on Wetherill Mesa via a loop tram system from Memorial Day through the second week of September. The park's interpretive division operates a tiny visitor contact kiosk at the temporary tram stop facility from 8:45 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily.

Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum, in the heart of the park's Mesa Verde Administrative Historic District, serves as the park's primary visitor information/orientation/interpretation facility and its only major year-round visitor center. The museum is open at least 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. year-round, with extended hours to 6:30 p.m. during summer season. The structure housing this museum, built between 1924 and 1937, features ceiling vigas and thick stone to blend in

Map 2
Existing Interpretive
Media at Mesa Verde National Park



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Illustration 3
Historic Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum

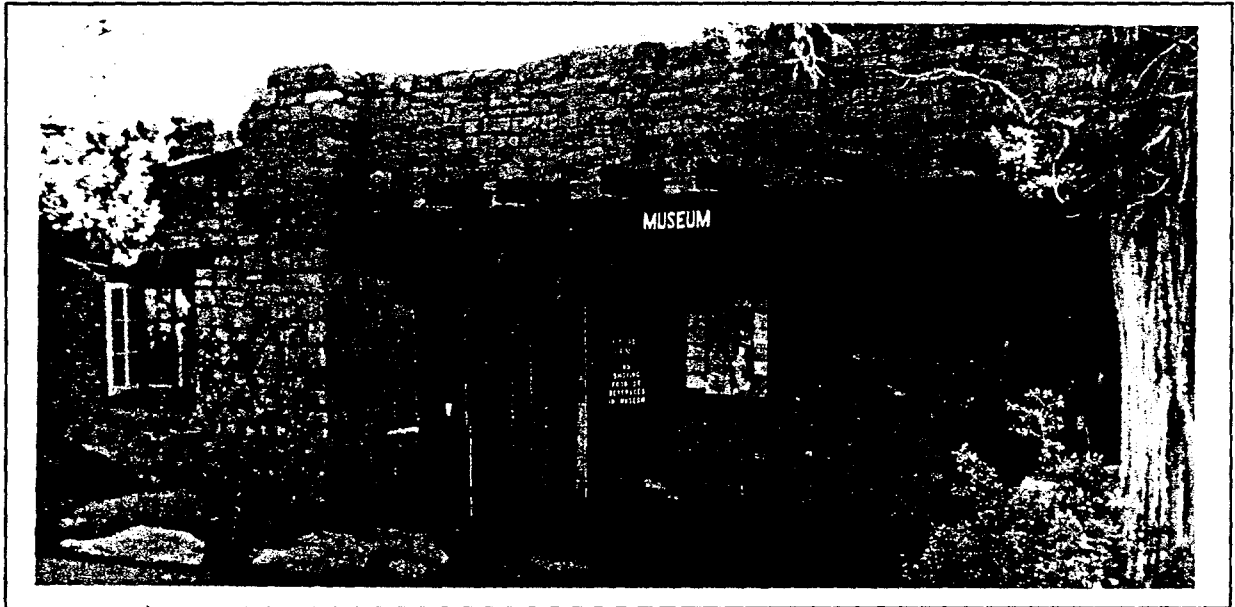


Illustration 4
Interior of Chapin Mesa
Archeological Museum on a Typical Summer Day



with [but not necessarily replicate] the construction motif of the park's prehistoric dwellings. The public area of the building includes eight rooms:

- the lobby/information desk area;
- a diorama corridor;
- a large multipurpose auditorium, used to show an interpretive audiovisual program during the off-season only;
- four archeological exhibit rooms, all with different floor levels;
- a Mesa Verde Museum Association (MVMA) display/sales room.

The building also contains administrative/management spaces both on the main level offices and in a partial basement. Housed in these spaces are:

- offices for the Chief Park Interpreter, the headquarters interpretive staff, and the Chapin Mesa District Interpreter;
- offices for the Mesa Verde Museum Association, along with a book vault and a caged area for Association sales stock;
- a vault for the valuable books of the park library;
- a slide collection.

Mesa Verde also contains two amphitheaters:

- the 1800-seat main park amphitheater in Morefield Campground, which is used for evening audiovisual programs;
- the older, smaller capacity amphitheater on the rim of Chapin Mesa, with a panorama of Spruce Canyon as an open backdrop, which is used for special programs and concerts rather than regular evening programs.

The park's currently approved *Annual Statement for Interpretation and Visitor Services* places in proper perspective vital extended personal interpretive services with both existing and needed media. The activity-by-activity summary of the Interpretation and Visitor Services Program yields insight into some of the most important specifics, which are as follows:

- **Staffing Orientation/Information Desks:** Please see sections above on Far View Visitor Center, Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum, and Wetherill Mesa Visitor Contact Kiosk;
- **Daily Conducted Tours:** Summer Season--Balcony House - 19, Long House - 17; Off-Season--Spruce Tree House, 3;
- **Attended Stations, Summer Season:** Spruce Tree House [10 1/2 hours daily], Cliff Palace [10 hours daily], and Step House [8 hours daily];

- **Evening Interpretive Programs, Morefield Amphitheater:** presented nightly during the summer season, approximately 100 programs per summer [Memorial Day to Labor Day];
- **Interior Patio Programs, Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum:** Occasional to frequent unscheduled use for small group special events, such as storytelling about the Mesa Verde story for interpretation for children.

The park's wayside exhibits represent a "mixed bag" of several generations of wayside exhibits, with only the beginning of a continuity of style and design. Please see *Appendix "A", List of Existing Wayside Exhibits* [page 129] for a tabular listing of all existing wayside exhibits by location, subject, source of origin, and expected future and/or disposition [e.g., keep? replace? remove upon installation of other waysides?]. Each wayside typically covers some aspect of Mesa Verde's geology, archeological prehistory, or history, and is usually mounted in single or double panels at various overlooks. The older exhibits have substandard graphics and hardware, and in many cases cannot be effectively duplicated or rehabilitated in case of wear or damage.

A unified interpretive approach and design has been established for a series of approximately 39 new wayside exhibits mostly for the Chapin Mesa Ruins Road [16 wayside stops] and the Badger House Community Trail and Wetherill Mesa [13 wayside stops].

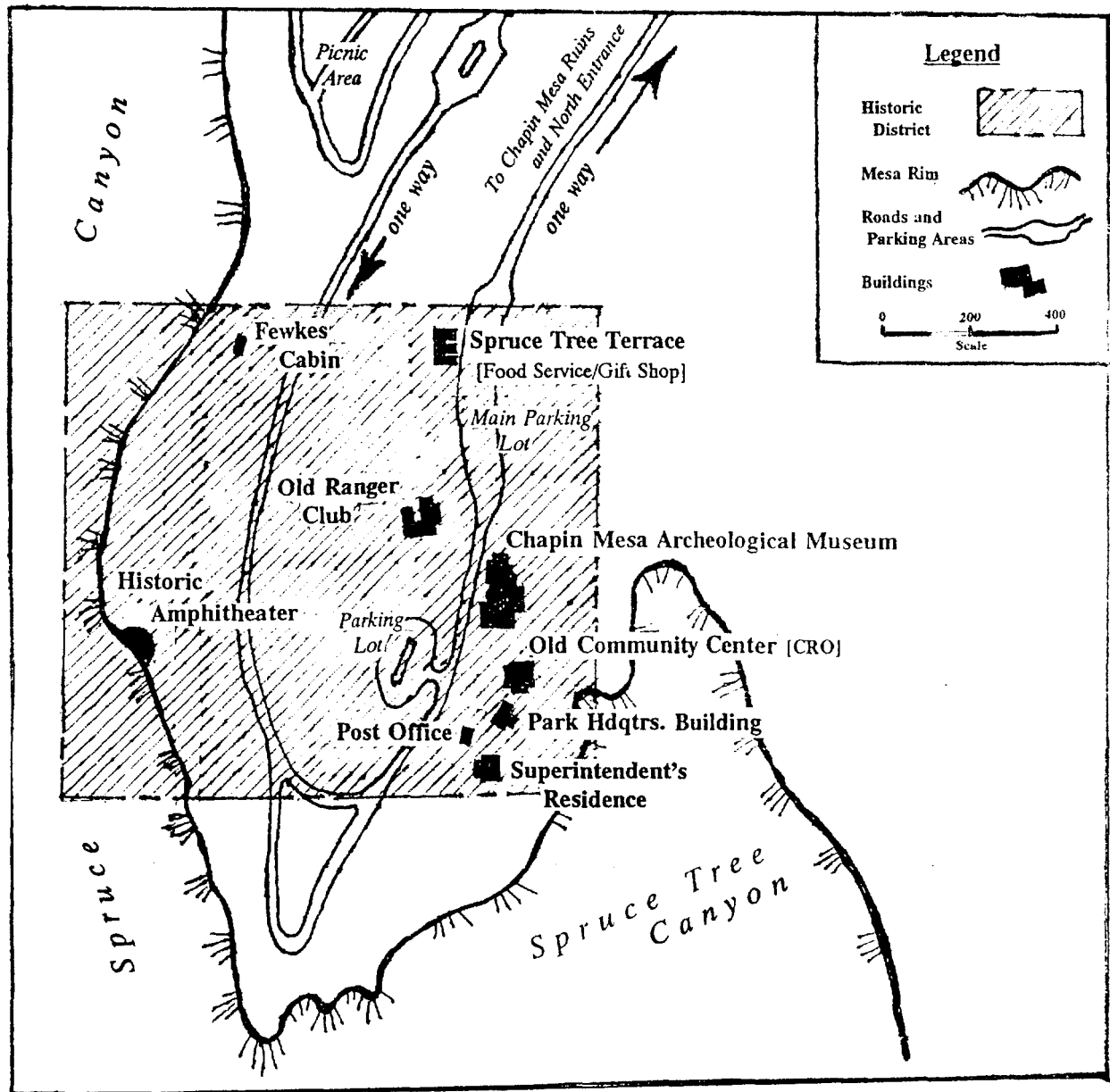
Because of the extremely fragile nature of the park's prehistoric resources, as well as the existence of several staffed facilities, this park must rely quite heavily on personal interpretive services. Personal interpretive services at Mesa Verde are primarily assigned for the following:

- staff for Far View Visitor Center, Chapin Mesa Museum, and Wetherill Mesa Contact Station/Tram Stop;
- conducted tours of Balcony House and Long House;
- assigned station interpretive duty at Cliff Palace, Spruce Tree House, and Step House;
- Evening programs at Morefield Campground amphitheater.

With the integral and able assistance of the Mesa Verde Museum Association, the park has developed a fairly extensive publications program, including the following:

Map 3

Mesa Verde Administrative Historic District, Mesa Verde National Park



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Illustration 5
Visitors on a Conducted
Tour at Long House, Wetherill Mesa



Illustration 6
Family Group at Badger House, Using the
Badger House Community Self-Guiding Trail on Wetherill Mesa



- a series of self-guiding booklets: *Far View Ruin*, *Cliff Palace*, *Spruce Tree House*, *Mesa Top Ruins*, *Balcony House*, *Wetherill & Step House*, *Badger House Community*, *Petroglyph Trail*, and *Park Point*;
- general summary pamphlets about Mesa Verde National Park, published in the German, French, and Spanish languages;
- several miscellaneous publications, as follows: *Mesa Verde* [information site bulletin], *Summer Activity Schedule*, *Junior Ranger* [brochure], *Winter Activities at Mesa Verde National Park*, *Wetherill Mesa Planning Information Sheet*, *Trail Information* [sheet], *Checklist of the Birds of Mesa Verde*, *Mesa Verde Picture Taking Tips* [brochure], *Ranger Club* [site bulletin], *Acid Deposition/Air Quality Studies* [sheet], and *Four Corners Monument* [sheet].

As related previously in this document, hiking trails open to the public at Mesa Verde National Park are limited because of an abundance of extremely fragile prehistoric archeological resources. Park trails open for public use are [listed in order from the park entrance to the farthest trailheads on Chapin and Weatherill Mesas]: [Note: Almost all of these trails are closed during winter months because of inclement weather and significant snowfall accumulations]

- Three trails leaving from Morefield Campground trailheads: Knife Edge Trail [1 1/2 miles], Prater Ridge Trail [7.8 miles], and Point Lookout [2.3 miles];
- Park Point Trail, 1/2 mile round trip off the Park Entrance Road on the Mesa Verde North Rim;
- D-Cut Trail to Geologic Overlook [also known as North Rim Overlook], 1/4 mile round trip off the Park Entrance Road on the Mesa Verde North Rim;
- Far View Ruins Group Trail, a 3/4 mile round trip, with self-guiding booklet;
- Prehistoric Farming Terraces Loop Trail, 1/2 mile round trip, near Cedar Tree Tower on Chapin Mesa;
- Spruce Tree House Trail, 1/2 mile round trip, by conducted tour during winter months, and by self-guiding tour booklet during the remainder of the year;
- Two trails sharing a common trailhead along "exit portion" of the Spruce Tree House Trail on Chapin Mesa: Petroglyph Point Trail, a 2.8 mile trail round trip, with self-guiding booklet for 3/4 mile of the trail with numbered stops; and Spruce Canyon Trail, 2.1 mile trail round trip (without a booklet);
- Cliff Palace Trail, 0.5 mile loop trail, with self-guiding booklet;

- Balcony House Trail, a 1/2 mile loop trip, by conducted trip only;
- Soda Canyon Overlook Trail, 1 1/2 mile round trip, near Balcony House on Chapin Mesa;
- Step House Trail, 0.8 mile round trip with self-guiding booklet, located on Wetherill Mesa;
- Long House Trail, a 0.6 mile round trip, by conducted trip, located on Wetherill Mesa;
- Badger House Community Self-Guiding Trail, a 3/4 mile loop trip with self-guiding booklet, located on Wetherill Mesa;
- Trail to Overlook of Nordenskiöld's Ruin #16, 1 mile trail, located on Wetherill Mesa;
- Trail from the information kiosk at Wetherill Mesa to the Badger House Community trailhead.

Three historic buildings within the Mesa Verde Administrative Historic District should be considered as locations for additional interpretive presentations. These three structures--the former Ranger Club, the historic Fewkes Cabin, and the "Old" Community Center (now the Chief Rangers Office/Chapin District Ranger Station)--are not now being used on a full-time basis for interpretive services but could become available after the development of a new administrative area near the park entrance.

At the time of the team's visit in mid-July of 1991, the former Ranger Club housed the temporary centennial exhibit about Gustaf Nordenskiöld and his exploration, and now houses the park library. It could be considered as a space for natural history exhibits in the future.

Each of the other two buildings eventually could be converted from administrative to interpretive use. The historic but relocated Fewkes Cabin is now occupied by the park's Geographic Information Systems staff, but might be better used to interpret the park's own rich history. The "Old" Community Center, with its balcony porch overlooking Spruce Tree House and its adjacent location to the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum, will become available and might be used to present an alternative access video tour of Chapin Mesa cliff dwellings for mobility impaired visitors and as an exhibit facility to interpret contemporary Pueblo cultures.

Illustration 7
A Mobility Impaired Park Visitor
Enjoying an Accessible Geology Wayside Exhibit
at the D-Cut Overlook on the Park Entrance Road



The park is pursuing an active program to provide access for physically impaired visitors, including both direct physical access and alternative access through media. Yet, by their very nature, the park's resource features and historic facilities still pose many challenges to full accessibility for all visitors.

Many trails on Wetherill Mesa have been constructed or modified with the intent of providing wheelchair accessibility (some requiring assistance), including the Tram Stop developed area, the Badger House Community Trail, and overlooks and their trails for Long House, Kodak House, and Nordenskiöld's Ruin #16. Because of numerous steps and ladders throughout the park's cliff dwellings, all cliff dwellings, with two possible exceptions are definitely inaccessible to mobility impaired visitors. These two locations, Spruce Tree House and Step House, have paved trails and may be accessed by some wheelchair users and others with mobility impairments *with considerable assistance and extreme physical exertion*. Our team's Accessibility Specialist expressed strong reservations about the practical use of these trails in their existing configuration because visitor safety is compromised by the steepness, length, sharp turns, and unprotected outer edges. Even the large overlook viewing platform for Cliff Palace presently remains inaccessible for visitors who are wheelchair users. However, the park staff currently is seeking funds for a feasibility study to remedy this deficiency. Additionally, Cliff Palace is visible to ambulatory-impaired visitors from a more distant overlook across Cliff Canyon, near Sun Temple.

Each of the major visitor center facilities--Far View Visitor Center and Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum--are accessible for the mobility impaired *only with assistance*. The ramp leading to the Far View Visitor Center entrance is too steep for safe unassisted access. All rooms of the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum are accessible to mobility impaired visitors only through the use of the park's portable metal ramp, which can be moved room to room only by the park's interpretive staff.

With the able assistance of the Mesa Verde Museum Association, the park has developed a videotape of a Ranger-conducted tour of a cliff dwelling for alternate accessibility. It is currently available for viewing, upon request, in the museum auditorium and usually available in the bookstore. However, each of these viewing spaces have enough limitations to keep it from being a successful alternative experience to an actual visit. The park staff has also developed and printed both a park information booklet in Braille and a guide booklet to accessible features and facilities arranged by types of impairment. However, this

booklet is very outdated and needs to be updated in terms of terminology and language, as well as accuracy of information. The former is available upon request at either the Chapin Museum or the Far View Visitor Center. The latter is free and available at the park entrance and at all information and ranger stations.

Summary of Media Problems and Needs

The following summary is extracted from the statement of existing conditions, as well as from the observations of the park staff and the planning team.

Perhaps the most imperative need to be resolved or satisfied is that of providing the public with a more functionally effective orientation/interpretation facility. Almost by definition, some type of a facility at or near the park entrance will be needed.

A new Wetherill Mesa interpretive plaza needs to be planned and developed to assist visitors using the mini-train or tram system. Such a facility needs to be generally guided by the November, 1988, Mesa Verde Development Concept Plan.

The historic Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum needs a plan to sensitively refurbish its exhibits. The plan must assure that the essential elements--character, nature and integrity--of the museum are not compromised. Since this structure also lacks adequate space and ventilation to present a general parkwide interpretive audiovisual program during the peak travel season, a revised AV program needs to be planned, developed, and installed in an alternate location.

However, as an interim measure, consideration should be given to developing a shortened [approximately seven minutes long], revised version of the existing program for presentation on a continuous basis. The new park entrance visitor center would be the most appropriate site for this new parkwide interpretive audiovisual program.

It is indeed difficult to describe the several generations of wayside exhibits mounted in Mesa Verde National Park as a wayside exhibit system. These multiple generations of waysides lack a continuity of style and design, and because of that present a piecemeal appearance. A new parkwide wayside exhibit system needs to be planned and implemented, building on the unified interpretive

approach and design recently established for the Chapin Mesa Ruins Road and the Badger House Community Trail.

Although the park and their cooperating association, the Mesa Verde Museum Association, have developed a fairly extensive publications program, one significant publication is still lacking. There is still a need to complete an official National Park Service handbook for the park.

In light of the identified need for a new entrance facility, the acknowledged failure of the Far View Visitor Center to function as an effective orientation center, and expansion of development on Wetherill Mesa there is a distinct need to identify, delineate and coordinate the roles, functions and themes of all major facilities and media. This must include the planned interpretive facilities near the park entrance and on Wetherill Mesa, as well as those existing, especially Far View Visitor Center.

Several major topics or subjects are not adequately presented within Mesa Verde's existing media, and need to be so interpreted:

- presentation of information and orientation materials and services in a regional context;
- an introduction to the Anasazi culture in a regional context;
- the natural history and geography of the Mesa Verde, as the context for its cultural/ethnological story;
- the importance of cultural resource protection and preservation...or in essence, the *why* of archeology and prehistoric and historic preservation and why it really is important to us;
- the process of archeology, including the stabilization efforts and process, as well as exploration and excavation ... or in essence, the *technology* or the *what* of archeology;
- the park's own rich history, including its importance as both the first national cultural park in our National Park System and the first cultural area in the U.S. to be designated a World Heritage Site.

To provide additional interpretive experiences for visitors as well as help redistribute the impacts on the fragile original prehistoric fabric of the park, park management may wish to consider opening other ruins [such as Mug House on Wetherill Mesa], either on a conducted tour or a self-guiding tour with assigned station interpreters.

As the park's interpretive facilities are expanded, additional personal services will be needed to meet operational needs. Existing interpretive staffing undoubtedly will not be adequate to operate the new entrance visitor center, and perhaps even a Morefield District Interpreter position will need to be created. If other prehistoric ruins are opened, existing staffing undoubtedly will need to be expanded.

As indicated previously in this document, accessibility for special populations at Mesa Verde [especially for physically impaired visitors] is not adequate, even though park management has spent significant time and energy planning and modifying interpretive media and facilities for accessibility.

THEMES AND OBJECTIVES

Interpretive Themes

These interpretive themes have been refined and developed from the 1990 *Mesa Verde National Park Annual Statement for Interpretation and Visitor Services* and ideas developed by the planning team during our on-site visit.

Primary Interpretive Themes:

- The Mesa Verde branch of the Anasazi exhibited distinct differences from, as well as several major similarities with, other major branches of the Anasazi culture, particularly the Kayenta and Chaco branches;
- Mesa Verde supports a surprising variety of plants and animals in a limited, somewhat marginal agricultural environment, which provided the natural environment or setting for the prehistoric Mesa Verde branch of the Anasazi; every natural history component of this area is crucial to the continued retention of the park's existing delicate ecological balance;
- The human ecology of prehistoric Mesa Verde demonstrates the skill and resourcefulness of the Anasazi people allowing them to initially live in harmony with their environment, which at times was a marginal environment, over a period of seven hundred years, before possibly overusing their available natural resources;

- The Anasazi may have abandoned the Mesa Verde when they were no longer able to live off their depleted land and its resources; there are critical environmental lessons which can be learned from Anasazi prehistory, because they fortunately were able to move elsewhere and begin anew, but we probably will not have a similar luxury if we abuse and deplete our resources;
- Upon the abandonment of the Mesa Verde area, the prehistoric Anasazi settled in new locations. Anthropologists and ethnographers study cultural traits of the possible descendants of the Anasazi and speculate and theorize on many aspects of the culture of the prehistoric Anasazi.

Secondary Interpretive Theme:

- The prehistoric ruins of Mesa Verde, which lay abandoned for several centuries, set the scene for a whole new era of history for this region, including rediscovery of its cliff dwellings, extensive exploration and excavation of its cliff dwellings and mesa top pueblos, and National Park Service stewardship of these nationally and internationally significant prehistoric cultural resources.

Interpretive Objectives

These interpretive objectives have been refined and developed from the 1990 *Mesa Verde National Park Annual Statement for Interpretation and Visitor Services* and ideas developed by the planning team during our on-site visit.

- To orient visitors to Mesa Verde National Park's cultural and natural features, major interpretive stories, and visitor use facilities, activities and services immediately upon entering the park;

- To assure public understanding of the park's cultural and historic values through promotion of an appreciation for prehistoric Native American civilizations, while avoiding unnecessary and offensive ethnocentric interpretation;
- To provide meaningful, broad spectrum opportunities for the great variety of the park's visiting publics, for varied interest levels and varied levels of available time, for intellectual, emotional, and physical contact with park resources;
- To encourage public recognition and appreciation of Mesa Verde's importance in its own right as the nation's first cultural national park and the U.S.'s first cultural World Heritage Site;
- To help visitors appreciate the severe environmental consequences of drastic depletion of natural resources in their home areas, through an understanding of the possible circumstances leading to the abandonment of Mesa Verde;
- To facilitate a public understanding of the work and contributions of professional archeologists, perhaps through some type of participatory activity;
- To promote visitors' appreciation of the need to preserve and protect Mesa Verde's cultural and natural resources through an understanding of their fragility and irreplaceability;
- To give park visitors who have been drawn to Mesa Verde for relaxation and recreation adequate opportunity to better understand the integral relationships they have with the cultural and natural world of Mesa Verde and their opportunity to personally gain from the park's resources;
- To form a visitor appreciation for the vulnerability of the park's cultural and natural resources, develop a visitor understanding of the need to confine visitor activities to designated visitor use areas, including restricting access to many parts of prehistoric ruins, and to designated trail corridors;

- To assure a safe park experience for all visitors, minimizing visitor accidents through an effective program of safety education using interpretive media and services to inform visitors of the safety hazards and remind them of the need for safe actions;
- To assure visitor accessibility integrated throughout all interpretive media and services, either through physical access wherever consistent with the maintenance of the integrity of Mesa Verde's cultural resources or through alternate media programs when physical access is not possible, especially including more alternatives for visually impaired visitors;
- To introduce the visitor to other regional Anasazi sites such as Yucca House and Hovenweep.

THE PLAN INTERPRETIVE MEDIA/ FACILITY PRESCRIPTIONS

This plan proposes interpretation, orientation, and informational media prescriptions for the following areas and needs for Mesa Verde National Park:

- Parkwide Wayside Exhibit System;
- New Entrance Visitor Center;
- Morefield Village Orientation/Information Facility;
- Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum;
- Wetherill Mesa Tram Station Complex;
- Far View Visitor Center;
- Parkwide systematic integrated plan for accessibility to interpretive media and services for special populations;
- the "Old" Community Center building;
- Fewkes Cabin;
- "Ranger Club" building;
- Publications.

Map 4: Existing Interpretive Media & Services at Mesa Verde National Park, on page 55, illustrates the locations of interpretive media and services when the proposals of this prospectus have been completed.

The plan will include a thematic statement and interpretive/visitor use objectives for the media of each interpretive facility.

All new and renovated structures, as well as all media prescribed by this prospectus, will meet all mandated Federal accessibility requirements. All media will conform with the September 1991 [Version 2.1] *Special Populations: Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for Interpretive Media*, developed and issued by Harpers Ferry Center. All media and facility designers and planners must incorporate the above requirements and provisions as they develop the action plans for structures, furnishings, fixtures, and media prescribed in this prospectus.

Parkwide Wayside Exhibit System

Develop a comprehensive Parkwide Wayside Exhibit Plan, from which a coordinated system of approximately 60 wayside exhibits will be designed, produced, and installed. The system would include interpretive panels, orientation panels, bulletin board cases, and a generic "Ruins Walls Safety and Resource Protection" panel.

Since the themes for the individual wayside exhibits are many, varied, and site-specific, it would be inappropriate to include a thematic statement for this exhibit system.

Visitor experience objectives for this system will be to:

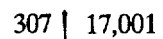
- provide visitors with enhanced, more extensive on-site interpretation;
- to help visitors have a greater opportunity to safely experience a wide variety of Mesa Verde's outstanding prehistoric, historic, and natural resources.

New parkwide exhibit planning should provide a unified design and interpretive approach, rather than a piecemeal solution. By building on the design established for stops along the Chapin Mesa Ruins Road and the Badger House Community Trail, parkwide wayside exhibits should continue the theme of bringing the abandoned structures and foundations to life through interpretive text and graphics. The time-line graphic motif incorporated in the Chapin Mesa and Badger House Community waysides should continue to be used on most panels interpreting prehistoric ruins and features. The use of this graphic motif would continue to place each ruin or feature in the context of the overall Anasazi culture [please see Illustration #8, on page 59].

The tentative parkwide wayside exhibit proposal included below identifies approximately 60 wayside exhibits. The team's wayside exhibit planner developed the proposal through consultations, mostly on-site, with the park's Chief of Interpretation and his key staff members based on discussions using Mesa Verde's list of *Existing, Planned and Possible Wayside Exhibit Locations*.

Wayside exhibits should provide specific on-site interpretation of significant ruins and park features. In several cases the waysides listed on the exhibit proposal present multiple themes or topics from the park's list, as in the case of trailheads

Map 4



55

at Morefield Campground. Site selection has been based on many factors, including possible intrusion on the natural or archeological scene.

The future of existing waysides will vary depending upon the individual wayside exhibit. Exhibits which recently have been planned and designed by Harpers Ferry Center will be retained as the core of the new coordinated system of wayside exhibits. Upon the completion and installation of new exhibits, some existing waysides will be replaced, while others may simply be removed. Please see Appendix "A" for a tabular listing of all existing waysides and specific details for their future or disposition.

The following list reflects Harpers Ferry Center's newly developed list of proposed wayside exhibits, although this tentative list will be subject to adjustment during the detailed future on-site wayside exhibit planning process. It builds upon a series of 35 wayside exhibits already planned, designed, and produced by Harpers Ferry Center. Two additional waysides have been planned and designed, however, to date their production has been deferred.

The large number of wayside exhibits in this parkwide wayside plan almost necessitates organizing these exhibits into three manageable phases based upon urgency of need and future facilities development.

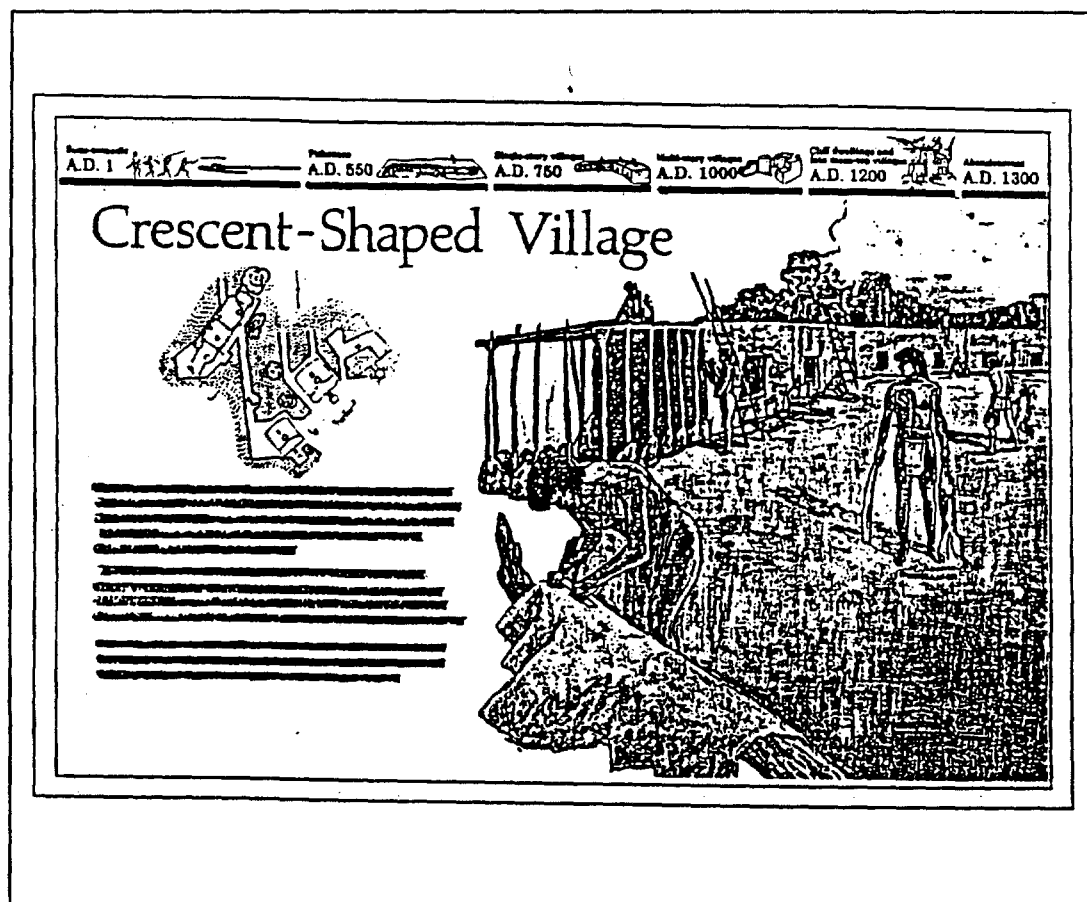
Parkwide Wayside Exhibits Proposal, Group #1: These exhibits include such things as: parkwide orientation panels, ruins wall safety and resource protection panels, and the completion of waysides along the Chapin Mesa Ruins Road.

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Location & Parkwide HFC Plan #</u>
Parkwide Orientation	Park Point Parking Lot (#40)
Parkwide Orientation	Morefield Campground, Store Parking Lot (#45)
Parkwide Orientation	Far View VC Parking Area (#52) {Locate in Center Island?}
Parkwide Orientation	Headquarters Area, on Chapin Mesa (#65)

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Location & Parkwide HFC Plan#</u>
World Heritage Site [New Generic Panel]	Initially Near the Pedestrian Tunnel Approach to the Far View Visitor Center; Ultimately at the Approach to the New Park Entrance Visitor Center (#85)
Ruins Walls: Safety and Resource Protection	Eight different locations: Far View Ruin, Cedar Tree Tower Ruins, Sun Temple, Step House, Cliff Palace, Badger House Community, Mesa Top Loop Pueblo Ruins, Mesa Top Pithouse Ruins; Will need Foreign Language Translations of Main Text] (#87)
Fire Lookout	Park Point (#43)
Bulletin Board [Interpret Seasonal Vegetation?]	Morefield Campground, Store Parking Lot (#46)
Morefield Hilltop Kiva Trailhead [Combine Map & Interpretation]	Morefield Campground (#47)
Prater Ridge Trailhead [Combine Map & Interpretation]	Morefield Campground (#48)
Knife Edge Trailhead [Combine Map & Interpretation]	Morefield Campground (#49)
Point Lookout Trailhead [Combine Map & Interpretation]	Morefield Campground (#50)

Illustration 8

*Detail of the Time-Line Graphic Used on All New
Mesa Verde Interpretive Waysides Developed by Harpers Ferry Center*



<u>Subject</u>	<u>Location & Parkwide HFC Plan #</u>
Introduction to Far View Pueblo Community	Far View Ruin Trailhead (#54)
Far View Ruin [Reroute Trail Around Ruin; Make Accessible]	Far View Community (#55)
Cliff Palace	Sun Temple and Cliff Palace Overlook (#67)
House of Many Windows [Note: Possible to Make Accessible, but costs are unknown]	Cliff Palace Loop (#69)
Balcony House: Interpretation and Safety	Balcony House (#70) [Relocate at Covered Waiting Area for Guided Tours or Make the Existing Location Accessible]
Fire and Regrowth Trailhead	Wetherill Mesa Road, Milepost 10 [Upright Exhibit] (#76)
Tower and Small Ruin	Wetherill Mesa Road, Milepost 10 (#77)
Orientation to Wetherill Mesa	Wetherill Mesa, near Interpretive Plaza [Site to be Determined] (#78)
Chapin Mesa Ceramics Kiln Trailhead	Chapin Mesa, in Headquarters area, just north of the main parking area [introductory trailhead exhibit for newly discovered ceramics kiln, site is not visible from trailhead] (new proposal)

Subject

Location & Parkwide HFC Plan #

Chapin Mesa Ceramics Kiln
Ruins Site

Chapin Mesa, in north end of Headquarters
area just north of the main parking area
[the park proposes, through the 10-238 process, to
construct a ruins shelter over the kiln; this type
prehistoric structure] (new proposal)

Parkwide Wayside Exhibits Proposal, Group #2: These exhibits include those
needed a little less urgently than those in group #1.

Panoramic
Features, Looking East

Mancos Overlook [Located on a Tight Curve]
(#38)

Vista and Historic
Road, Looking Northeast

Montezuma Overlook (#39)

Don't Feed Wildlife

Morefield Campground, Near Dump Station
(#51)

Small Ruins
Identification

Mesa Top Loop, Navajo Canyon Overlook
(#66)

First Park Museum

Fewkes Cabin, on Chapin Mesa, Headquarters
Historic District (new proposal)

Montezuma Valley
and Anasazi

Wetherill Mesa Road, Milepost 3.9 (#73)

Air Quality &
Shiprock View

Wetherill Mesa Road, Milepost 7.5 (#74)

Panoramic View

Wetherill Mesa Road, Milepost 8.6 (#75)

Subject

Location & Parkwide HFC Plan #

Long House

Long House Overlook, on Wetherill Mesa
Tram Route (#82)

Parkwide Wayside Exhibits Proposal, Group #3: This exhibit group is comprised of those waysides dependent upon additional development [such as at the new entrance visitor center] and those determined through evaluation to be necessary as replacements for park-developed waysides.

Subject

Location & Parkwide HFC Plan #

Park Point
Orientation

Park Point Trailhead (#41)

Park Point
Geology

Park Point, West Overlook (#42)

Panoramic East
Features & "Why the
Anasazi Lived Here"

Park Point, East Overlook (#44)

Air Quality

Far View VC, Front Railing Mounted (#53)

Pipe Shrine House

Far View Community (#56)

Far View Tower

Far View Community (#57)

Mummy Lake
[Redesign Existing
Wayside]

Far View Community (#58)

Coyote Village

Far View Community (#59)

"Leave the Past
in Place" (Resource
Protection)

Far View Community, Site 820 (#60)

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Location & Parkwide HFC Plan #</u>
Cedar Tree Tower-Tunnel-Kiva	Cedar Tree Tower Complex (#61)
Farming Terraces Trailhead Orientation	Cedar Tree Tower Complex (#62)
Farming Terraces	Cedar Tree Tower Area (#63)
Spruce Tree House	CRO Building [Old Community Center, Located on Rear Terrace Overlook] (#64)
Cliff Palace	Cliff Palace Overlook [Redesign Approach Walkway for Accessibility] (#68)
Soda Canyon Trailhead Overlook	Cliff Palace Loop (#71)
Balcony House View	Soda Canyon Trail, South Overlook (#72)
Step House Orientation	Wetherill Mesa Area, Step House Trailhead (#79)
Prehistoric Resource Protection	Unexcavated Ruin, Badger House Community, near Wetherill Mesa Tram Route (#80)
Gustaf Nordenskiöld	Trailhead to Nordenskiöld's Ruin #16, Wetherill Mesa Tram Route (#81)
Parkwide Orientation for the Travel Season	Approach to Park Entrance Visitor Center (#83) [Note: This panel, with its alternate panel could be placed in a three-sided kiosk with panels #85 & #86]

Subject

Location & Parkwide HFC Plan #

Parkwide
Orientation for
Off-season Use

Approach to Park Entrance Visitor Center
(#84)

Bulletin Board
Case

Approach to Park Entrance Visitor Center

In 1989, plans for two wayside exhibits for Far View Community sites on the west side of the main Chapin Mesa park road were completed and approved. However, currently these sites are not safely accessible to park visitors. Therefore, production of these two wayside panels has been indefinitely postponed pending the permanent solution of this access problem [see page 131 in Appendix "A"].

Approximately six of the wayside exhibits recently designed and produced by Harpers Ferry Center need map and illustration corrections. Corrective action on these waysides is currently in progress through the Center's Minor Rehabilitation Program for exhibits [see pages 131, 132, 133, and 134 in Appendix "A"].

New Park Entrance Visitor Center

To remedy the imperative need to provide the public with a more functionally effective orientation/interpretation facility, in concert with the March 1988 Park Entrance Comprehensive Design Plan, a new visitor center will be built at or near the park entrance and operated year-round. For most visitors to Mesa Verde, this center with its exhibits and audiovisual presentation will be their first interpretive experience at the park.

The interpretive media for this new visitor center should be planned and designed to primarily communicate the following thematic statement:

The human ecology of Mesa Verde is of paramount importance. The prehistoric residents of the Mesa Verde interacted significantly with most of the many facets of their natural environment. Frequently they significantly impacted it through various manipulations.

Visitor experience objectives for this facility will be to:

- orient park visitors for use of the physical resources, the facilities, and the visitor services at Mesa Verde, as well as for surrounding regional points of interest;
- convey basic park safety information;
- help direct visitors to alternate destinations within the park when some of its most heavily visited features and facilities are at capacity use;
- introduce visitors to the park's overall interpretive story of the interaction of Mesa Verde's prehistoric society with their natural environment;
- provide adequate facilities for educational outreach, special events, special activities, and symposiums;
- provide an alternative interpretive experience for visitors during the off-season months when winter snow accumulations close much of the park to visitation, for those times during the summer season when visitor use of most of the park reaches and exceeds its capacity, and perhaps those with extremely limited time to spend at Mesa Verde National Park;
- extend the park's interpretive program by making quality, in-depth "take home" informational and interpretive publications available through the sales area operated by the Mesa Verde Museum Association;
- provide other necessary basic visitor use needs, such as rest rooms and public telephones.

The design, location, and landscaping of this new visitor center must assure that it is prominently visible and will attract enough attention to draw park visitors into the center before they proceed into Mesa Verde National Park. Also, to assure that this new facility fulfills its purpose of immediate orientation for arriving park visitors, interpretation and orientation concerns must be considered paramount and "drive" the planning and development of the visitor center. If the above provisions are met, the park staff estimates that approximately 90% of all visitors entering the park will make use of these visitor center facilities.

Visitors should not be necessarily held at this visitor center for any extended period of time. Rather, this visitor center should seek to quickly orient visitors to the park and its basic evocative story, and to help them continue on their park visit. However, the planning should incorporate enough quality and enough depth of content to satisfy the interests and needs of those who are particularly stimulated to learn more about the topics presented. Additionally, this increased depth will enable this new visitor center to fulfill a role as an alternative

interpretive experience for visitors, especially during winter months when inclement weather and snow accumulations close much of the park.

The overall objective of this visitor center and its media, in addition to providing basic orientation, is to set the stage for further interpretation by presenting the broad context of the Anasazi in their natural world. Since this facility initiates the visitors' park experience, wherever possible, interpretive media should focus on seeking to instill a sense of understanding of the park's cultural values through an appreciation for prehistoric Native American cultures. Therefore to ensure that these important goals are realized, we strongly suggest that media design considerations be incorporated into the architectural style and its design process as early as possible.

Overcrowding already is a reality at Mesa Verde National Park during several hours daily on many summer days. Thus, all planning and design considerations for this center should acknowledge that fact by focusing on provisions and techniques aimed at dispersing visitation away from some of the park's most popular cultural features and visitor use facilities, such as Cliff Palace and Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum. It is most important that all possible measures be taken to promote a quality park experience for visitors. Such an objective would be best accomplished through media and services which would be both (1) comprehensive enough to present the park story in its full context, and (2) flexible enough to inform visitors about current visitor use conditions at specific park features and facilities. Such provisions will allow visitors to make intelligent choices about using their time at the park most wisely. As a result, they would have the option of selecting alternate destinations to avoid crowded visitor use areas, and especially bypass cultural features whose use may be temporarily restricted due to periodic saturation use of the site by visitors.

Major interpretation/visitor use and related support needed in this facility are:

- orientation, information and trip planning services for Mesa Verde and its surrounding region including Yucca House NM, Hovenweep NM, the Anasazi Heritage Center, other NPS sites in the Four Corners region, and the Pueblo Trail, and related traveler facilities such as rest rooms;
- a major cooperating association display/sales area;
- park specific introduction to and interpretation of the Anasazi people and their culture, thereby helping to assure public understanding of the park's cultural and historic values;
- introduction to the professional discipline of archeology;

- provide the opportunity to gain an appreciation for the park's natural and cultural resources;
- also provide the opportunity to gain an appreciation for the need for the protection of natural and cultural resources at Mesa Verde and on other public lands, especially those properties surrounding the park;
- visitor safety information and interpretation;
- information and interpretation about Mesa Verde as our nation's first cultural World Heritage Site;
- a separate multipurpose room for environmental education, symposiums, theme-related traveling exhibits, and conferences;
- appropriate office and storage spaces;
- maintenance supplies storage/facilities space;
- a mechanical room.

To adequately accommodate peak visitor use during an average summer travel season day [which occurs between 10 a.m. and 12 noon daily], approximately 20,000 square feet of space will be needed for public visitor space in the combined lobby, the cooperating association sales facility, and exhibit areas [5000 sq.ft. for exhibits; 15,000 sq.ft. for adequate visitor flow space, including the information desk]. This space estimation is based upon travel projections for the next eight years, using the July 1991 printout data from the automated car counter located at Park Entrance Fee Collection Station.

Visitor Center Entrance Approach Area. Harpers Ferry Center planners, especially the Wayside Exhibits Planner, should work closely with architects, landscape architects, and designers during the comprehensive design process to plan facilities to meet after-hours visitor use needs.

Four wayside exhibits, three used at a time and perhaps grouped in a kiosk, will be needed to orient park visitors after-hours and interpret Mesa Verde as a World Heritage Site. Two panels, one for use during the travel season and the other for off-season use, would provide primary after-hours parkwide orientation/information. Each of these would quite likely use a park map as the basic graphic. A third panel would be a standard framed bulletin board. Parkwide accessibility information and features should be specifically indicated on the map and bulletin board panels. The fourth exhibit would interpret Mesa Verde in the context of United States World Heritage Sites as a significant part of the international list of cultural World Heritage properties. The interpretive wayside used here should be the generic panel based on the recent mock-up developed by

the Harpers Ferry Center's Division of Wayside Exhibits and presented to the Santa Fe meeting [December, 1992] on World Heritage Sites. These waysides, a public telephone prominently located near the waysides, and a duplicate World Heritage Site plaque should be included as an integral part of the design for the visitor approach way to this new visitor center.

Lobby Area. The lobby area should accommodate the following functions:

- the primary information/orientation services focus for this visitor center;
- presentation of basic safety information;
- introduction to the paramount importance of cultural and natural resource protection on public lands in general and specifically within Mesa Verde National Park;
- self-service travel planning information via interactive video stations with printout capabilities;
- the park's major sales outlet for the Mesa Verde Museum Association;
- inviting entrances to both the exhibit room(s) and the dual audiovisual theaters.

The information/orientation desk should be planned and designed to be immediately accessible to all entering visitors and should have a lowered section for serving wheelchair users, people small of stature, and children. The desk should be equipped with remote controls for the audiovisual programs in the dual theaters.

A limited amount of office space will be needed for the visitor center interpretive staff, located immediately adjacent to the information desk. This proximity of the office to the information desk will be especially important during non-peak periods of visitor center use [e.g., off-season, early morning], because it will facilitate the transaction of other essential duties for which this interpretive staff has responsibility.

Large graphic maps of the park and its surrounding region would be installed at or near the information desk, to be used as a "tool" by the front desk interpretive staff to assist in providing the public with orientation information and trip planning for the entire park. Most likely, two maps would be needed:

- one presenting the park or the southern one-third of the park, where almost all the park's archeological resources and visitor use facilities are located, thereby helping to assure public understanding of the park's cultural and historic values;

- one depicting the surrounding Four Corners region, and especially interpreting the irreplaceable archeological resources on all public lands and the need for public assistance in respecting and protecting them.

Since parkwide interpretive facilities will be implemented in phases, specific effort should be made to plan and design orientation exhibits with enough flexibility to be changed and updated as new facilities become operational.

We believe that terrain or relief models would best meet the needs of visitors. These models should be touchable to provide tactile experiences for visitors. Accompanying orientation panels could illustrate primary points of interest in the park, clearly indicating the accessible opportunities available. A park orientation audio tape for visually impaired visitors should be prepared to be used both with the tactile relief map and throughout their park visit. Prominent signage at the information desk should advise visitors of the availability of the loan of the audio tape upon request.

To provide visitors with park and regional travel and orientation information, two or three visitor interactive video stations with printout capability would be designed, produced, and installed in the lobby. The travel/orientation information available at each station would be identical, to allow use by more than one visitor at a time. These interactive videos will need to have provision to keep travel information current, such as a **user friendly** authoring system.

Although the park will continue to rely on information desk personnel to provide vital information about how to safely enjoy Mesa Verde, these vital safety messages should be reinforced by including them in the general orientation exhibits. Associated with orientation panels, an exhibit should warn visitors about the potential dangers of the park's cliffs, steep trails, hiking in high altitudes, and other safety concerns. Further, the park staff should consider developing an envelope with a safety message printed on its face for the handout(s) currently being distributed at the fee collection station.

Another exhibit would orient visitors to other surrounding lands and related regional sites open to the public, especially Yucca House and Hovenweep National Monuments. It must also stress the importance of cultural and natural resource protection on all public lands and the need for public assistance in respecting and protecting those resources, especially the irreplaceable archeological resources. We suggest the possibility of an exhibit displaying a sampling of the many artifacts that have been illegally removed from the park but

later returned or confiscated. A brief accompanying text would explain how these displaced objects now have little value, thus their contribution to our understanding of the Anasazi is forever lost.

Cooperating Association Display/Sales Facilities. One of the primary visitor services provisions to be located in this center will be a major sales facility for the Mesa Verde Museum Association, Inc. [MVMA]. This facility should be located in, or immediately adjacent to, the lobby. This sales outlet should especially feature quality, theme-related interpretive publications and associated educational materials which are parkwide and regional in scope.

To support this MVMA sales facility, the cooperating association will need adequate functional support facilities within this visitor center. Such space would need to include:

- secured, environmentally controlled stock storage area large enough for efficient day-to-day restocking of the display area;
- a small office space, which would accommodate an inventory control computer.

Primary Audiovisual Programs and Auditoriums. The primary audiovisual presentations in this new visitor center should be mood setters and place setters which would place Mesa Verde's story within its larger context.

To help implement the objective of expediting smooth, steady visitor flow through this new Entrance Visitor Center while still providing the public with a quality experience, these primary audiovisual presentations should be made available with minimal waiting time between showings. To implement this goal, during the busy summer travel season, an eight- to ten-minute audiovisual program would be shown on an alternating schedule in a pair of 100-125 seat, sloped floor theaters, each with a level seating area for wheelchair users. Consideration might be given to a "side-by-side" design for this pair of theaters with a movable partition between them to accommodate possible large audiences, such as those attending the World Cultural Parks symposia. During the slower paced off-season, a fifteen- to eighteen-minute program would be shown in only one theater.

The need for two 100-125 seat theaters is based on existing and projected summer season park travel and visitation patterns. During that busy summer travel season, the combination of the short program length and dual theaters would assure that no visitor would have to wait more than 10 minutes for the start of a new

showing. During the off-season, when only one theater would be needed [the other could be closed down, saving on operating costs], the wait would not be more than 20 minutes.

The eight- to ten-minute production would be a quality large format program with surround sound, such as a Hasselblad slide production. It should deal with several Mesa Verde specific themes in a dramatic, inspiration style rather than a formal lecture approach. Many visitors arrive at the park with an internal spark of wonder. This show should build on that wonderment.

The 15-18 minute audiovisual production, like the shorter production above, would be a quality large format slide program with surround sound [most likely a Hasselblad program]. It, too, should interpret using a dramatic, inspirational style. This longer version would use more visuals of the park's key cultural resources. It should especially highlight those features which are inaccessible to visitors during much of the off-season because of road and trail closures due to heavy snow accumulation. This audiovisual program might also be a useful interpretive tool during those future times when visitor use levels at a majority of the park's most popular cultural sites have reached or exceeded saturation points.

These programs would interpret the following:

- a "sense of place" for this land called Mesa Verde, and more particularly a sense of the *essence* of this unique place;
- a "sense of the time" in which the Anasazi inhabited the area, including a "sense of sequence of time" [often known as a time line], which should be shown visually more than told narratively;
- a sense of emotion and spirituality of the Mesa Verde human ecology, by showing the relationships both positive and negative, of the Anasazi to their environment;
- the intrigue and wonder the mesa top and cliff dwellings inspire in visitors, such as:
 - Why did the Anasazi move from the mesa tops to the cliffs?
 - Why did they leave the cliff dwellings after living there only 75 to 100 years?

Narration would be used judiciously in both programs. These interpretive messages would be carried by the visual images, the natural sounds, and appropriate music. Information in both would be communicated through

conversational dialogue and general osmosis rather than precise, formal narrations.

Since emphasis will be particularly placed on these productions' visual images, audio description tracks will be needed for visually impaired visitors. Planning for these audio descriptions must begin concurrently with the initial planning for these audiovisual programs, and must be critically coordinated throughout script developments and production. Adequate non-narration space in these scripts will be an absolute necessity. As specified by standard Harpers Ferry Center guidelines, these programs also will be captioned for hearing impaired visitors. Consideration should also be given to producing two foreign language versions of the shorter [eight- to ten-minute] program's audio narrative. One should be in German and the other to be the next most prevalent foreign language spoken by park visitors, as determined at the time of planning and production, either through captioning or an audio tract. Assistive listening devices, commonly known as enhanced audio, are legally mandated and will be provided for hearing impaired visitors.

For the most part, these theaters should be similarly designed and equipped. Preferably they should be located either immediately side-by-side or back-to-back, so they could be served by a common projection booth. In addition to a large format projection system with surround sound, each theater should be equipped with:

- a 35 mm. slide projection system with lapse dissolve;
- exit doors separate from the entrance doors, to facilitate a rapid visitor flow pattern for emptying and refilling the theater between showings;
- sufficient room at the bottom of the screen for the display of captions, if the "message board" method of captioning is chosen;
- a 20-foot high ceiling in each theater to accommodate a large projection screen, which would be 15 feet wide and would have its top mounted at ceiling level.

The theater which will be used year-round should be equipped with a state of the art, ceiling-mounted video projection system with all necessary peripherals.

Main Exhibit Space. The exhibit space basically would be organized to depict Mesa Verde's four major Anasazi periods--Basketmaker, Modified Basketmaker, Developmental Pueblo, and Great Pueblo. One possible solution might be the use of four galleries or exhibit spaces. Under this concept, the dominant visual element in each exhibit space will be a large, tall mural depicting Mesa Verde at

the time of one of these four major Anasazi periods. Other options, such as inclusion of a general overlook view of the entire exhibit area, will need to be seriously explored.

Regardless of the design solution, the exhibit area(s) will need to be designed with high ceilings, perhaps 18 to 20 feet high. Additionally, each gallery's mural will be supported by exhibit areas and some brief video segments.

Objectives for this space would be:

- to illustrate how the Anasazi utilized plants, animals, land and landforms, water, and other natural elements of their world;
- to use archeological evidence to support our modern conclusions about the Anasazi's use of natural resources;
- to foster and instill a sense of respect for the ancient Anasazi;
- to reinforce park orientation and resource protection messages presented elsewhere in the visitor center.

The first dramatic impression upon entering any of the four galleries of the main exhibit area would be the large murals. This original color artwork would depict bird's-eye-views of Mesa Verde--especially the Chapin Mesa and Wetherill Mesa areas--at the time of its Anasazi habitation, along with various close-up views in the foreground. Each should feature park-specific human ecology, perhaps enhanced by appropriate subtle ambient soundscapes. Further, each would depict a different slice of prehistoric time--one of the four major Anasazi periods. In exhibits associated with the mural(s) consideration should be given to:

- introducing a concept of time sequence, perhaps similar to the *time line* strip used on many of the park's new waysides;
- providing the visitor with some means of visual comparison of each gallery mural with immediate predecessor and successor mural, such as smaller but full color guide illustration.

An introductory exhibit panel, leading into the first gallery, would briefly interpret the park's archaic archeological heritage. Likewise, the fourth gallery would be followed by a panel briefly interpreting what has happened to these Native American peoples today. Each of these exhibits should include information about how we know what we know and where visitors can find out more elsewhere within the park.

Even the visitor who just walks by the murals will come away with a strong impression of the population density and architectural diversity that existed at Mesa Verde over the 700 years that the Anasazi lived here. Compared with today, the landscape depicted in the artwork will look quite different, with many mesa top areas cleared of trees and crops growing, and with garden terraces flanking the canyon sides.

The scenes depicted in the mural would also be illustrated with simple line art in associated graphic panel exhibits. The outlined scene would need to be keyed into the accompanying exhibit text, such as through a numbering sequence.

Selected close-up mural views should be associated with exhibit areas including necessary cases, and perhaps with exhibit islands or exhibit peninsulas extending away from the murals. This concept would create opportunities for displaying full-scale plant models and animal specimens together with relevant archeological evidence of how the Anasazi used the natural materials of their environment. These exhibit areas will have brief key label texts to provide the casual visitor with basic interpretation. We suggest that there also be a second, deeper level of text for those who seek a greater level of interpretation.

Attention should be given in some way to "key in" or mark those sites and features on the mural which are open to park visitors, e.g., mesa top pueblos, farming terraces, cliff dwellings on both Wetherill and Chapin Mesas. Additionally, the planning and design of exhibits should seek to positively relate specific artifacts to those sites and features which the public can actually visit and experience. It should also relate to the need for conservation and preservation of cultural sites and their related artifacts. Such actions would augment and reinforce both the lobby exhibits for orientation of visitors and the urgency of responsible stewardship of the park's cultural irreplaceable prehistoric resources.

Brief video segments would be incorporated into a few of these exhibit spaces to show images that reinforce the main theme of the relationship of the Anasazi with their natural world. These vignettes would illustrate or elaborate on specific concepts, such as food preparation, farming techniques, shelter construction, or the flintknapping of a projectile point. To avoid audio confusion which would overpower the proposed ambient soundscapes described in the next paragraph, these video vignettes should be silent or captioned if narrative is needed. These brief segments would be shown on small video monitors with continuous loop video disc format and equipment.

Consideration should also be given to incorporating a few subtle ambient soundscapes emanating from the general vicinity of features illustrated on the murals. Examples of possible soundscapes would be: the low rumblings of thunder in the distance, the faint cawing of ravens, and the muffled sounds of stone masonry work. Consideration might also be given to enhancing these exhibits with appropriate smells, if they can be accurately identified, and if reliable technology and supporting operational logistics are available,

Team discussions generated a number of specific exhibit ideas, which are offered here as possibilities for these mural scenes and associated exhibit elements:

- piñon-juniper forest depicted in the mural, associated with exhibits on the uses of these two trees by the Anasazi, e.g., displaying archeological remains of piñon nuts [used for food] and piñon gum [used for waterproofing baskets and repairing pottery];
- Mesa top farming depicted in the mural, associated with an exhibit on agriculture and food preparation, e.g., possible use of video segment(s) of food preparation or farming techniques, and displaying plant models of corn and squash with archeological remains of those foods;
- Anasazi construction depicted in the mural, associated with an exhibit on archeological remains of prehistoric buildings and their elements, including an introduction to dendrochronology;
- Overhang with cliff dwellings depicted in the mural, associated with an exhibit on cliff house sandstone and the geologic process of how overhangs form [perhaps using brief video], e.g., displaying a touchable model, and/or touchable geologic specimens of sandstone and shale;
- Sandstone cliff depicted in the mural, associated with an exhibit on hand and toe holds, e.g., perhaps displaying a replica cliff face and a mannequin of an Anasazi climbing the hand/toe hold trail carrying a slain deer, and including a touchable segment of hand and toe holds;
- a full scale replica or model of an Anasazi room--probably from a cliff dwelling;
- Yucca being gathered and used in the mural scene, associated with an exhibit on the Anasazi and their numerous uses of raw materials from this important plant--clothes, baskets, and sandals, e.g., displaying a plant model of a yucca, archeological remains of utilized yucca, and a touchable replica of a prehistoric yucca basket;
- a burning pithouse depicted in the mural, associated with an exhibit on the archeological remains of a burned site, e.g., perhaps displaying prehistoric ash and burned wood from a burned dwelling;

- domesticated turkeys depicted in the mural, associated with an exhibit on how this bird was utilized by the Anasazi, e.g., displaying a turkey specimen, along with archeological bones and feathers;
- a rubbish heap depicted in the mural, associated with an exhibit on how archeologists analyze them today to better understand the Anasazi, e.g., archeological remains of acorns, and digging sticks and bows made from Gambel oak perhaps compared with modern reproductions of the same implements.

Multipurpose Room. A multipurpose room must be included in the structure. It should be designed as a very flexible space for a variety of uses which would allow the park staff to positively respond to the current servicewide Education Initiative thrusts. Such a flexibly designed facility would accommodate: meetings; symposiums; cultural/environmental education/heritage programs and seminars; interpretive staff training; and temporary and/or traveling exhibits.

This room needs to be flexibly designed to accommodate the following:

- seating for as many as 100 persons seated at work tables, and up to 150 persons in an "auditorium style" seating;
- audiovisual equipment and capabilities;
- "built-in" counters and/or credenzas;
- provision for some type of separate children's discovery/education area [or room, perhaps];
- immediate access to water, perhaps even wet sink(s) in the multipurpose room, including provision for access to wet sink(s) for disabled users;
- temporary division into two equal sized rooms, most likely using an "accordion-fold" type divider wall, with doorways into each space [one side could then be used to display temporary exhibits while the other remained available for a meeting or classroom activity; or two different classroom activities could take place simultaneously];
- easily located exterior entrances to the room(s) to allow after-hours use without need to open the remainder of the visitor center;
- after-hours access to accessible public rest rooms and an accessible drinking fountain.

Morefield Village Orientation/Information Facility

At present, the information/orientation facilities in the Morefield Village/Campground vicinity are very limited. However, the lobby of the Morefield District Ranger Station is staffed with volunteers whenever possible.

To provide orientation/information station staff with adequate interpretive tools, interpretive panels and an orientation desk will be planned, designed, produced, and installed in the 190 square foot lobby of the Morefield District Ranger Station. These panels should include:

- an orientation map to the park ;
- interpretive panel(s) on wildlife around and near the campground;
- an orientation panel for the immediate Morefield Village/Campground area, specifically including orientation to the area's trails leading to natural history areas and cultural sites.

A parkwide orientation panel located just outside this ranger station, previously specified in the parkwide wayside exhibit system section, will provide after-hours information. Trailhead wayside panels, also previously specified in the wayside system section, will provide campers and other interested visitors with specific trail orientation.

Wetherill Mesa Tram Station Complex

In response to and in concert with the primary provisions of the November 1988 *Wetherill Mesa Development Concept Plan*, we propose a shaded, open-air orientation/interpretation facility as the focal point of the Wetherill Mesa Tram Station staging complex or interpretive plaza. It would be designed to quickly orient visitors and help move them along to experience the resource.

The interpretive media for this facility should be planned and designed to primarily communicate the following thematic statement: The physical remains of Anasazi culture, as uncovered during the extensive excavations of the Wetherill Mesa Project from 1958 to June, 1965, offer a particularly fine perspective of the prehistoric Anasazi and their lifestyle.

Visitor experience objectives for this interpretive plaza portion of the tram station staging complex will be to:

- provide visitors with orientation, information, and an interpretive introduction to Wetherill Mesa;
- expedite visitor flow through the tram station to Wetherill's key prehistoric resources by presenting a rudimentary interpretation of and directions to each of the destination options and the trail system for the mesa; it should also seek to instill a basic appreciation for each resource destination;
- provide visitors with a shaded area while they await the next shuttle tram;
- provide special populations, especially mobility impaired visitors, with a solar-powered audiovisual program as an alternative to actual physical access to the cliff dwellings on Wetherill Mesa;
- provide visitors with adequate opportunity to purchase quality, site-specific Wetherill Mesa interpretive publications;
- provide for other basic day-use visitor use needs, such as rest rooms and food service.

Interpretation needs and solutions should drive the nature and character of the permanent development for this staging complex. To better serve visitors, we recommend that serious consideration be given to amending the 1988 Wetherill Mesa Development Concept team to authorize inclusion of a modest sized enclosed space in the orientation/interpretation facility. This enclosed space [estimated at approximately 500 sq.ft.] would be needed for interpretive exhibits using selected prehistoric artifacts and/or their replicas from various Wetherill Mesa excavations. We believe that these exhibits will help maintain visitor dispersion and help reduce adverse visitor impacts on the natural and cultural resources of the more heavily used areas of the park, particularly the Chapin Mesa area. Conservation and protection concerns for these selected artifacts must be specifically addressed in the exhibit planning and design process.

It also is important to note that development work for the construction of this visitor use staging complex could occur at any time. It is not contingent upon any other park development.

The team recommends that the interpretive facility for this complex basically should be a shaded, but open-air, flow-through facility. Both the architecture and the interpretive media should be planned and designed to channel and focus visitors through this facility to the mesa top ruins and cliff dwellings just as expeditiously as is possible, rather than hold them in that area.

The main orientation/interpretation message would be carried by a few selected museum exhibits and numerous wayside exhibits. The orientation message also should incorporate the message of the multiple positive options for mobility impaired visitors.

An alcove area should be planned and designed as an integral part of this interpretive facility which would provide an audiovisual program as an alternative to direct physical access to cliff dwellings. A five- to seven-minute video program would provide mobility impaired visitors with a video tour visit to Long House and Step House. The program could be revised at a later time to include Mug House should it be opened to the public some time in the future. This program would be presented using a video disc/monitor system. This video should be captioned, probably closed captioned with a selector switch to "turn on" the captions. Because of this remote location, photo-voltaic cells would provide the electrical power for this program. A seating area for approximately 25 to 35 people, including both seats with backrests and space for wheelchair, would be needed to serve these visitor needs. Since this interpretive facility will be essentially an open-air structure, the cabinetry for this audiovisual program should be designed so that the equipment is protected from the weather and securable when the facility is not in use.

This interpretive plaza facility also needs to include two limited visitor use features. One would be a securable visitor information station or kiosk. The other would be a small but adequate Mesa Verde Museum Association publications display/sales facility, incorporating securable storage cabinets.

A few selected waysides, as described in the *Parkwide Wayside Exhibits* section [see pages 61-64], would round out the on-site interpretive media for Wetherill Mesa. A few of these waysides would be located along the tram route, while the remainder would be located along the road between the junction near Far View Visitor Center and this staging area.

To help disperse the observable impacts upon these fragile, irreplaceable archeological resources, serious consideration should be given to opening the Mug House Cliff Dwelling to the public, either on a conducted tour or attended station basis.

Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum

The classic dioramas and displays of the historic Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum have been enjoyed and admired by visitors to Mesa Verde for over a half century. Under this prospectus proposal, this museum will continue to provide park visitors with detailed anthropological and archeological interpretation of Anasazi culture.

The interpretive media for this museum should continue to be planned and designed to primarily communicate the following thematic statement: The surviving artifacts of the material culture of the prehistoric Anasazi peoples of the Mesa Verde provide an outstanding panorama of their lifeways.

Visitor experience objectives for this very popular museum will be to:

- intensively interpret the Anasazi lifeways using artifacts [in greater detail than at any other location in the park];
- provide visitors with orientation, information, and an interpretive introduction specifically to Chapin Mesa, as well as for the park in general;
- convey basic park safety information;
- provide visitors with adequate opportunity to purchase quality, site-specific Chapin Mesa interpretive publications;
- facilitate greater accessibility to the exhibits for visitors with disabilities.

Under this proposal, the Chapin Mesa Museum will be sensitively refurbished and restored. The historic integrity and nature of these exhibits will be preserved to the maximum extent possible. The negative impacts on the essential historical character of this museum should be minimized.

The existing auditorium will continue as a flexible use area and as an exhibit space for several large, historic wall hung paintings by contemporary Pueblo artists. The historic fabric and furnishings of the room, including rest benches will remain intact. However, should the new Entrance Visitor Center be greatly delayed, the main exhibit rooms in Chapin Mesa Museum could and should be refurbished in a timely manner by providing an alternative temporary exhibit area. The most feasible space for such a use would be this auditorium.

In addition to the primary objective of restoring the Chapin Mesa Museum while keeping the historic exhibits essentially intact, other key objectives will be:

- to ensure the proper conservation and care of the displayed artifacts;
- to organize the exhibits in clear, logical groupings;
- to improve visitor accessibility to these exhibits.

Specific exhibit treatment proposals will be grouped by the three functional areas of the museum: the Lobby; the Main Exhibit Space, including the diorama hall; and the Mesa Verde Museum Association sales facility.

Lobby. Currently, the lobby area is furnished with an information desk, some graphics, and rest bench seating. Under existing conditions, visitors enter the diorama hall and the main exhibit area with little benefit of a basic introduction to this museum.

To make the museum lobby area as functionally useful to park visitors as is possible, we would retain the seating while making limited modifications. We propose the installation of a new exhibit panel to basically introduce the museum, and a reassessment of the design and location of the information desk.

The basic museum introduction exhibit should be prominent and obvious upon entry into the lobby. It should include a title and *brief* key label copy to introduce both the displays and the classic dioramas. Since many visitors are unaware of the museum's historical significance, brief text providing background on the museum itself would be included.

The design and location of the information desk needs to be reassessed. This design should consider the possible inclusion of specific large information/orientation graphics featuring Chapin Mesa but also including the park in general. The design also needs to include a lowered section of the desk to provide information desk accessibility for visitors in wheelchairs, children, and visitors of small stature.

Main Exhibit Space. We propose that the diorama hall be kept in its current location and configuration, with rehabilitation of text. The dioramas will continue to be chronologically arranged. Modifications to improve accessibility for wheelchair users, people of small stature and children need to be made. Consideration should be given to:

- rehabilitating the accompanying outline graphics and text describing each diorama;
- new line art;

- a larger type size;
- back lit text, possibly angled for easier viewing;
- possibly lowering all of the dioramas.

After viewing the dioramas, visitors would most logically continue into the next exhibit hall.

We recommend that the exhibits in the other exhibit rooms be regrouped, as much as is possible, according to the following four Anasazi periods: Basketmaker; Modified Basketmaker; Developmental Pueblo; and Great Pueblo. Each of these groupings would have an area title and a key label. We believe that this simple organizing tool will be of great help to visitors to better understand the context of these historic exhibits.

Several of the existing exhibits do not logically fit within these four major Anasazi periods. Some, such as the *Origins of the American Indian*, are really precursors of the Mesa Verde story. These exhibits most logically should be located just inside the first exhibit room leading off the diorama hall so that most visitors would encounter them immediately. Any remaining displays that do not logically fit into the four Anasazi periods or the new contemporary pueblo culture exhibit area could be grouped into their own general exhibit area.

Natural history display elements should be moved from this exhibit space to the new natural history exhibit facility in the Ranger Club building.

For the most part, these exhibits suffer from a problem of several different typefaces, styles, and sizes. The design of the exhibits will need to be coordinated and should establish some consistency of typeface for the main exhibit area. We suggest perhaps a selection of one or two of the most representative, readable, and aesthetically pleasing of the existing typefaces for use throughout the exhibits. The typefaces chosen, including type sizes, should consider the needs of people with limited vision. Sans serif typefaces should be seriously considered. The design for this exhibit rehabilitation should also consider the installation of good, non-glare lighting.

Many, if not most, of the existing exhibits have already been photographically documented. However, thorough documentation [similar to the documentary recording of an archeological site] should be verified, and where necessary completed, before any exhibit rearrangement, reorganization, rehabilitation, or refurbishing takes place.

Concurrently, these exhibits need an on-site design analysis by an exhibit designer. An on-site condition analysis was completed in 1982 by a professional conservator, and, if necessary, should be reviewed and updated before beginning exhibit planning and design. Since many of these artifacts have been on public exhibit for nearly a half century, this analysis must include documentation of current artifact condition and estimate of the nature and cost of future artifact conservation needs. Many existing object mountings are either outright artifact damaging or unduly stressful to artifacts. This condition survey needs to include an artifact by artifact assessment of future mounting requirements. The new mount design and mount making should be executed and/or managed by the Harpers Ferry Center Division of Conservation.

Some text will need to be sensitively revised to eliminate references to objects which have long since been removed from display [such as human burial remains] or to correct unintentional errors of fact. Revisions may also be needed to upgrade interpretive text to conform with the results of recent research.

The issue of physical accessibility to the multiple floor levels of this main exhibit area definitely needs to be studied further and positively addressed. These varied floor levels present a significant challenge for mobility impaired visitors. The solution might well incorporate both:

- increased signage in the lobby to inform visitors of accessibility options;
- a lighter, more portable ramp; preferably a ramp that could be safely and efficiently handled by only one staff member.

We also strongly recommend the addition of a touchable scale model of a cliff dwelling in its replicated cliff face setting. It would provide a tactile experience which would especially benefit visitors with impaired vision, which is an element that currently is missing from the interpretive experience at this museum. Any other possible tactile discovery opportunities should be sought out and considered. These provisions also serve many other visitors as well who might seek the opportunity for tactile discovery. For further assistance for visually impaired visitors, an audio description tour of the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum should be prepared.

Cooperating Association Display/Sales Area. The Mesa Verde Museum Association will continue to occupy the L-shaped room in the extreme south end of the museum building.

After the opening of the new Entrance Visitor Center with its general parkwide sales area, this display/sales area should concentrate on publications and related interpretive products about Chapin Mesa sites and resource features and the themes of this museum. It should also offer a select assortment of general, parkwide, and Anasazi theme titles.

Far View Visitor Center

As has been previously documented, Far View Visitor Center is, at best, only partially successful in its designated purpose as Mesa Verde's primary orientation center. However, the facility, with some additional orientation signing, is the very best space available in the park to interpret the preservation and management of Mesa Verde's extensive cultural resources. This visitor center contains space adequate for satisfying the following:

- information/orientation exhibits and services;
- an association publications sales area;
- exhibits to interpret the preservation and management of the park's cultural resources, as well as its supporting research.

It would be desirable to eventually a second Travelers Information Station [TIS] in the general vicinity of the Far View Visitor Center to provide park visitors with additional in-depth information about park features, facilities and programs.

The exhibits and audiovisual media proposed for this visitor center will provide visitors with opportunities to better understand the Anasazi world through the park's cultural resources management programs and the ongoing archeological research which supports them. The center's media should be designed for general park audiences; however, attention should be given to participatory exhibits which many of our younger visitors seem to especially enjoy.

The development of media for this interpretive facility will be guided by the following thematic statement:

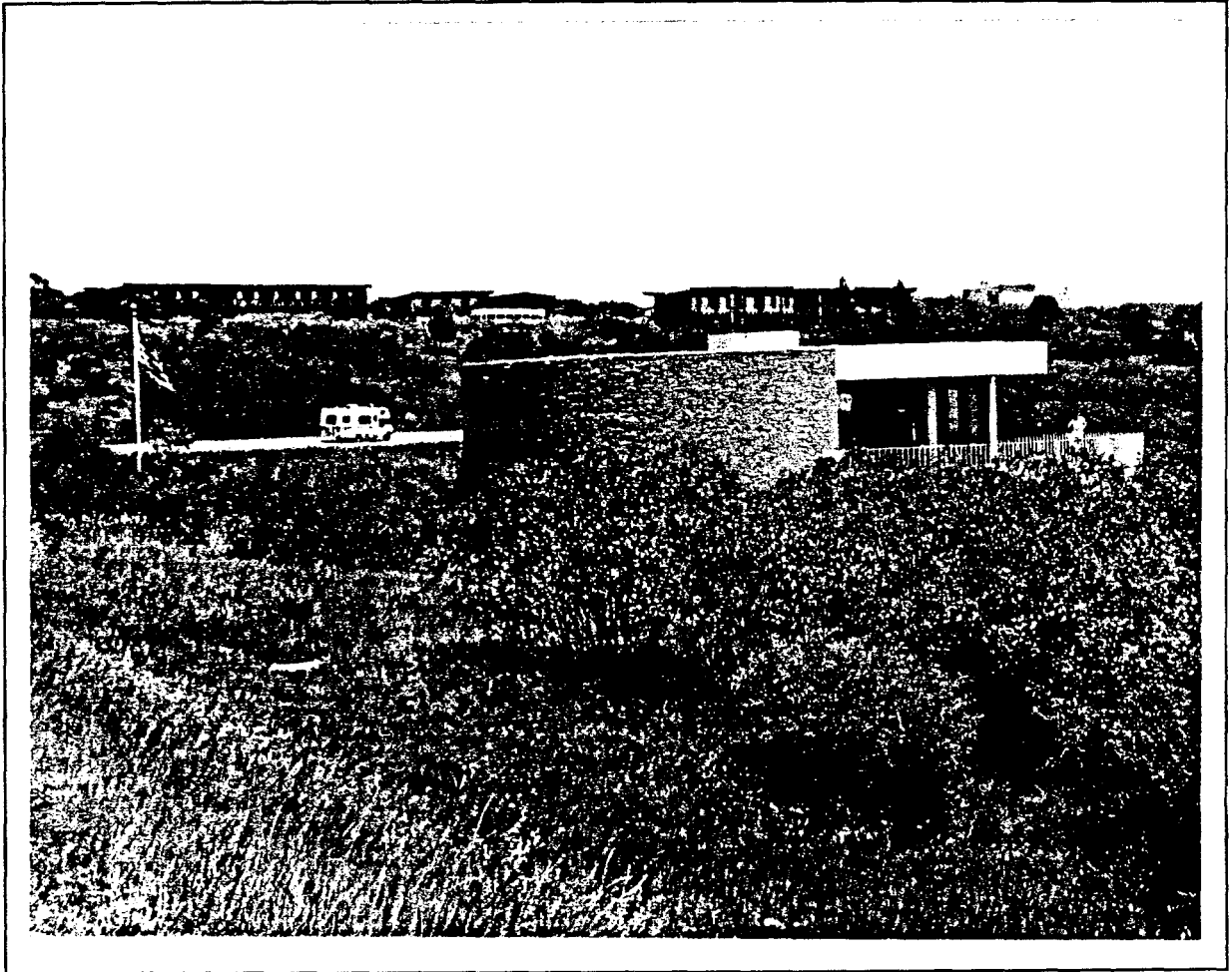
The cultural resource management program for Mesa Verde National Park is vital to its prehistoric resource conservation and visitor use mandates, and is supported by a wide variety of subordinate, ongoing archeological research techniques and programs.

Major interpretation and visitor experience objectives that need to be addressed and satisfied in this facility are:

- to specifically provide orientation to and information about the resources and facilities on Wetherill Mesa;
- to provide a secondary facility to furnish visitors with general park information;
- to convey basic park safety information;
- to provide, in part, an opportunity for "discovery" of the fascinations of Mesa Verde, particularly for the park's younger visitors--both children and youth;
- to relate the park's cultural resources to a visitor understanding of the need for cultural resources protection and preservation, and to help visitors understand the vital *but supportive* role of archeological research in relation to the cultural resources management mission of the park and the service, and with the Service's Education 2000 Initiative;
- to further help visitors understand the various levels of resource preservation treatment as dictated by the nature and vulnerability of each ruin or site, and in turn gain an understanding of why visitors are invited to walk on some ruins and are prohibited from leaning on or even touching other ruins;
- through a greater understanding of Mesa Verde's cultural resources management actions, give park visitors opportunity to gain a more complete understanding of the culture of the prehistoric Anasazi people.

This visitor center's circular public use area will continue to be generally divided into two major spaces: the lobby, and the exhibit area.

Illustration 9
Far View Visitor Center,
with Far View Lodge in the Background



The lobby area of this visitor center will contain both a National Park Service orientation/information desk and a Mesa Verde Museum Association [MVMA] display/sales facility. Like the operations at other visitor centers and museums within Mesa Verde, the publications sales operations will be totally handled by MVMA personnel.

The information desk facility should include exhibit panels which use graphics and brief text, perhaps even a relief map, to orient and inform park visitors about Wetherill Mesa specifically and the park in general. Since parkwide interpretive facilities will be implemented in phases, specific effort should be made to plan and design orientation exhibits with enough flexibility to be changed and updated as new facilities become operational.

The Mesa Verde Museum Association publications display facility should remain approximately the same size as the existing display fixture. The actual sales would be handled from a counter equipped with a recessed cash register. For best service to visitors, the Mesa Verde Museum Association sales facility should remain in a separate location from the National Park Service information desk. The titles stocked at this sales facility would reflect the emphasis of the visitor center. Primarily it should include publications concerning:

- the legacy of the park's outstanding cultural resources and preservation and management;
- the supporting scientific publications based on archeological research at Mesa Verde;
- general Anasazi archeology;
- Wetherill Mesa.

Secondarily, it would offer general park information publications and related materials.

A major feature of the exhibit area should emphasize and interpret the conservation and management of Mesa Verde's irreplaceable prehistoric resources, including the natural and cultural ecology of the setting in which they are found. In doing so, interpretive media--perhaps through audiovisual programming of some sort--should communicate an emphatic cultural resource preservation ethic.

Another significant, but subordinate, area of emphasis would be the interpretation of the discipline and techniques of the archeological research. Since it is that

archeological research which provides the park with base data and information both [1] to responsibly manage the park's cultural resources and [2] to creatively interpret the Anasazi lifeways from the static material resources of Mesa Verde, it is most important to interpret these vital supportive relationships between cultural resources management and archeological research.

A secondary but also important interpretive emphasis should be the reinforcement of a visitor safety awareness, especially while visiting the prehistoric ruins--both cliff dwellings and rim top pueblos.

We suggest that the dependent relationship of cultural resource management with archeological research might well be some sort of parallel track or perhaps time line. However, it would be most important to balance this time line approach with "hands on" type media. Both would contribute greatly to the "discovery" environment of this visitor center.

One track would present the progress of resource management techniques, procedures and strategies over approximately the past century. Through this time line both the *what*, such as ruins stabilization versus actual structural reconstruction, and the *why* or rationale for such an action or strategy should be interpreted.

Where possible this part of the exhibit should relate directly to the visitor's park experience and thereby promote an understanding of, and a commitment, to a resource preservation ethic.

A second track would interpret the status and advance of archeological research and its supportive techniques during the same span of time. The archeological time line would begin with the "state of the art" and the work of pioneer archeologists of the Southwestern U.S. during the late 19th century and the early 20th century, such as Gustaf Nordenskiöld, Edgar Hewett, Jesse Fewkes, and Alfred V. Kidder. At the time, methods and procedures were very basic, if not somewhat primitive, compared with today's *space age* "state of the art" procedures and technologies. This exhibit should include prominent archeologists working at Mesa Verde over the years, such as Jesse Nusbaum and Al Lancaster. It should include the presentation of various archeological research techniques as appropriate on the time line, two or three of which are to be interpreted on short video disc programs integrated into the exhibits, including but not limited to:

- dendrochronology;

- pollen analysis from archeobotany [palynology];
- Carbon 14 dating;
- archeomagnetic dating;
- penetrating sonar;
- technology related to satellite photography, such as landsat and infrared;
- technology and information related to Geographic Information Systems [GIS].

Where possible and appropriate, exhibit techniques should be matched with the topic. For example, the use of interactive video to present space age, "state of the art" methods and technologies such as the use of landsat, infrared and GIS photography.

The interpretation of the conservation and preservation of resources beyond park boundaries, such as those in the larger regional setting, also would be appropriate for this visitor center. One particular example would be the interpretation of the regional air quality and its changes through a wayside mounted on the visitor center's front balcony railing.

We also propose that the visitor center exhibit design incorporate a flexible exhibit space to be used to focus on "what's new" in both cultural resource management and archeological research at Mesa Verde National Park. Specific types of topics to be presented in this space for changing exhibits would be perhaps Mesa Verde's:

- latest cultural resource conservation/preservation strategies and/or methods;
- latest archeological discovery or discoveries;
- ongoing archeological investigations;
- air quality research procedures and results.

Contemporary Pueblo Cultures Exhibits, Old Community Center

After the new administrative complex near the park entrance is developed, the 1,794 square foot Chief Ranger's Office [Old Community Center] building located adjacent to the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum, will become an interpretive facility to [1] share with visitors some aspects of contemporary Pueblo cultures, and [2] provide alternate media program access to the Chapin Mesa cliff dwellings. Because of exhibit space needs, the contemporary Pueblo culture

gallery will occupy most of the space in the building. An audiovisual nook will accommodate an alternative access video for the Chapin Mesa cliff dwellings.

The interpretive media for this new interpretive facility should be planned and designed to primarily communicate the following thematic statement: The pueblo cultures of northeastern Arizona, northwestern New Mexico, and the Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico are the most likely successors to the prehistoric Anasazi. Therefore, an understanding of these modern cultures helps park visitors gain insights about additional aspects of the prehistoric Anasazi culture and lifeways; it further helps visitors learn of the continuity of culture.

Visitor experience objectives for this facility will be to:

- expand the cultural continuity of the park's interpretive story by presenting the possible relationships of contemporary Pueblo cultures with the prehistoric Anasazi culture of Mesa Verde;
- provide a suitable alternative for physically impaired park visitors who cannot actually visit Spruce Tree House, Cliff Palace, and Balcony House;
- secondarily, to provide a worthwhile alternative for visitors who simply choose not to visit the cliff dwellings for various reasons.

This facility should be planned and designed primarily as an unattended exhibit area. Personal interpretive services would be provided in this facility on an intermittent basis by a roving interpreter responsible for both this exhibit facility and the Natural History Museum, located in the Old Ranger Club.

Contemporary Pueblo Cultures Exhibit Gallery. These new contemporary Pueblo cultures exhibits would incorporate ethnographic treatment and interpretation using graphics, text, recent ethnographic artifacts, and some audiovisual segments. Although some of the artifacts currently on exhibit at Far View Visitor Center should be considered for use in this interpretive exhibit area, particular care should be exercised to assure that the exhibits do not become merely another Native American arts and crafts exhibit. The exhibit should emphasize the continuity and relationships of modern Pueblo peoples of northeastern Arizona, northwestern New Mexico, and the Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico as successors to the Mesa Verde Anasazi culture. It is most important that these relationships be interpreted as respectfully and sensitively as is possible. To assure that these exhibits *perpetually* will continue to interpret contemporary pueblo culture, a significant percentage of the exhibits should be designed to be

Illustration 10
Old Community Center Building, Proposed Location for New
Contemporary Pueblo Cultures Exhibits, Showing Its Rear Balcony



Illustration 11
View of Spruce Tree House in Winter
From Rear Balcony of Old Community Center



updated on a frequent basis. To help ensure this respectful, sensitive treatment, direct participation by these Native American peoples in the media development process will be an integral necessity. We propose the integral incorporation of two or three brief video segments in these exhibits, to provide visitors with an opportunity to experience the contemporary Puebloan perspective. Video discs/monitor systems would be included where appropriate within the exhibit. Since fine dust is a potential continuing problem in this historic structure, the cabinets designed to house these audiovisual systems should be as dust free as is possible.

Chapin Mesa Cliff Dwellings Alternative Media Access. For a variety of reasons, mainly the lack of adequate space to show it, the association produced videotape tour of Spruce Tree House is not a successful alternative for physical accessibility to that cliff dwelling ruin. Further, alternatives to actual physical access to Cliff Palace and Balcony House are presently nonexistent. To meet this need, we propose a seven- to ten-minute videodisc program interpreting these Chapin Mesa cliff dwellings. A video nook should be designed for this program, perhaps located in the rear portion of the exhibit room near the door leading to the porch with the Spruce Tree House overlook. It should include seating with back rests, as well as adequate space for visitors in wheelchairs.

This seven- to ten-minute video should treat all three cliff dwellings on Chapin Mesa which are open to the public. Specifically, we suggest that one-half the program should treat Spruce Tree House, and one-quarter each of the program content should present Cliff Palace and Balcony House.

We firmly believe that an interpretive video about Spruce Tree House would be a much better alternative than having mobility impaired visitors place themselves in a safety risk situation by trying to negotiate the Spruce Tree House access trail. The round trip hike for this ruin requires exhaustive physical effort and is potentially dangerous.

This program would serve not only those who cannot hike down to these three Chapin Mesa Cliff Dwellings, but undoubtedly would secondarily serve numerous visitors who, for a multitude of reasons, do not choose to hike to them.

Although this video access program would be permanently shown in this building, it could and should be developed as soon as possible for presentation in temporary locations. Until the new administrative area is developed near the park

entrance, this access program could be shown in the Chapin Mesa Museum Auditorium.

Natural History Exhibits, "Ranger Club" Building

After the new administrative complex near the park entrance is developed, the 2,971 square foot, U-shaped "Ranger Club" Building located diagonally across the road from the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum, will become an interpretive facility to the natural history of Mesa Verde in context with its profound effects upon the Anasazi lifestyle and culture. Recently, this building has been used for the special centennial exhibit on Gustaf Nordenskiöld and his 1891 explorations. At present, this building houses the park's reference library.

The interpretive media for this exhibit area will be planned and designed to communicate the following thematic statement: The multiple facets of the natural environment of the Mesa Verde provided the setting for and profoundly dictated the nature and quality of the prehistoric Anasazi culture.

Visitor experience objectives for this interpretive facility will be to:

- help park visitors better understand that the cultural world of the prehistoric Anasazi was thoroughly integrated with all aspects of the natural environment in which they lived, including: geology and landforms, paleontological remains, weather systems and conditions, plant life including forested areas, and animal life including the Mesa's abundant bird life;
- provide visitors with detailed, *in-depth* interpretation of how the Anasazi interacted with their natural environment and the specific uses of the natural products and elements than that which will be presented in the new Entrance Visitor Center.

This facility, like the Contemporary Pueblo Cultures exhibit area, should be planned and designed primarily as an unattended exhibit area. Personal interpretive services would be provided in this facility on an intermittent basis by a roving interpreter responsible for both this exhibit facility and the Contemporary Pueblo Cultures exhibits, located in the Old Community Center.

Among the specific interpretive topics which should be considered for inclusion within these exhibits are:

- geology and landforms of the Mesa Verde, including the formation of alcoves in which the Anasazi later built their cliff dwellings;
- the Anasazi use of geologic materials in construction and decoration of dwellings and implements, specifically including the decoration of pottery;
- how geology precisely affected the location and availability of water sources for the Anasazi;
- the paleontological remains known to the Anasazi and how they used them, such as for jewelry and for other ornamentation;
- weather systems of southwestern Colorado and how the landforms of the Mesa Verde affected them and their resultant conditions year-round; and how the Anasazi reacted with and adapted to the prevailing weather;
- the plants and animals of Mesa Verde today and a comparison with that which the Anasazi knew, as well as their specific uses of those plants and animals and products thereof;
- interpretation of the reintroduction of the wild turkey, and tenuous status of the Big Horn Sheep and the possible future need for its reintroduction;
- interpretation of the role of fire in the prehistoric Anasazi culture, as well as the role of fire as it relates to the ongoing cultural resource preservation and conservation efforts.

Two video disc programs should be considered for integration into these exhibits. These programs would interpret [1] weather systems and the adaptation of the Anasazi to them, using footage and corresponding sound recordings from all seasons, and [2] the geology and landforms of the Mesa Verde, including the formation of alcoves in which the Anasazi later built their cliff dwellings. Because of the linear nature of much of the interior of this building, it is important to limit and control the amount of introduced sound. Therefore, both programs should be designed with *brief* open captioned interpretation rather than recorded "voice over" audio interpretive narratives.

Parkwide Plan for Accessibility to Interpretive Media

Because of the location and nature of Mesa Verde's extensive prehistoric resources and historic facilities, physical accessibility to much that is very meaningful at the park is most limited. It is perhaps much more limited than at most large parks.

The park's interpretive management staff already has recognized these important needs, and taken some actions to solve them. Yet it still remains imperative that **a rather extensive program of both physical access and alternative media access provisions be undertaken to improve access and enhance the park experience for mobility impaired visitors.** Additionally, further consideration should be given to providing more tactile discovery opportunities, especially models for conveying the concept of a cliff dwelling in its natural setting and other important facets of Mesa Verde to visually impaired visitors.

Since the themes for the individual proposed treatments are many and varied, it would be inappropriate to include a thematic statement for this accessibility plan.

Visitor experience objectives for this system will be to enhance the park experiences of visitors with disabilities by implementing the mandates of current Federal law, National Park Service accessibility policy, and National Park Service accessibility guidelines for interpretive media.

As previously emphasized, **all new structures, renovated structures, and media prescribed by this prospectus** will meet all mandated Federal requirements, especially the Architectural Barriers Act [ABA] and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. All media will conform with the current *Special Populations: Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for Interpretive Media*, developed and issued by Harpers Ferry Center.

Additionally, serious consideration should be given to developing and installing a signage system, as well as updating the current park accessibility brochure, for Mesa Verde's facilities and features. It should sensitively inform disabled visitors about the available options of interpretive media and services.

Consideration should be given to providing an alternate format for all existing and proposed publications, including booklets and brochures, for visually impaired visitors. These publications should be produced in either a recorded format and/or on personal computer discs produced for use on "talking format" computers owned and used by visually impaired individuals.

For convenience of reference, many other special accessibility elements which have previously been proposed for the above facilities and systems are summarized below:

- tactile terrain maps, models and exhibit elements in the Entrance Visitor Center [VC], the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum, and Far View Visitor Center;
- a parkwide orientation audio tape for visually impaired visitors to be produced in conjunction with the Entrance Visitor Center;
- a possible full-scale model of an Anasazi room in the Entrance Visitor Center;
- back lit text for the dioramas in Chapin Mesa Museum;
- several other alternative media program access provisions for the large screen AV program for the new Entrance VC [captions for deaf visitors]: an audio description track [for the visually impaired], the mandated enhanced audio track [for hard of hearing visitors], and foreign language versions of the narrative script;
- a recommendation for a better, more portable access ramp for the various exhibit rooms at Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum;
- a five- to seven-minute audiovisual program as an alternative to physical access to Wetherill Mesa cultural features, located in a dedicated alcove at the Wetherill Interpretive Mall;
- a seven- to ten-minute videodisc program providing an alternative to physical access to Chapin Mesa cliff dwellings, located in the Old Community Center building.

This prospectus also proposes several additional alternate media and physical accessibility elements.

We propose two additional audio description tapes for the visually impaired. The first, approximately 20-30 minutes long, would provide audio access for the Wetherill Mesa Mini-Train Loop including the self-guiding trail through Badger House Ruin. The other, approximately 30 minutes long, would treat audio accessibility for the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum.

Since Cliff Palace is easily the park's best known individual feature, we support the park staff's initial efforts to explore the feasibility of making the Cliff Palace platform overlook fully accessible for visitors in wheelchairs. Most likely, such a project will require engineering assistance for analysis, planning and design to modify the approach to the viewing platform. Should such a solution not be feasible or significantly delayed in implementation, another alternative should be undertaken. A possible solution involves installation of several post-mounted binocular viewing devices [some at wheelchair viewing height] at an overlook

across Cliff Canyon from Cliff Palace. However, in the long run, we believe that complete physical access to this overlook to be most important, if not imperative.

Of lower priority, but still highly desirable, would be efforts to make the 1.5 mile [round trip] Soda Canyon Trail accessible to wheelchair users. Making that trail accessible to the mobility impaired would not only provide a direct overlook view of Balcony House for chair users but also open a major trail on Chapin Mesa to full physical accessibility. Bridging the large wash near the beginning of the trail would solve the trail's most severe accessibility obstacle.

Adequate access for mobility impaired visitors into the park's old amphitheater, on Chapin Mesa near the historic Fewkes Cabin, should also be considered.

Fewkes Cabin

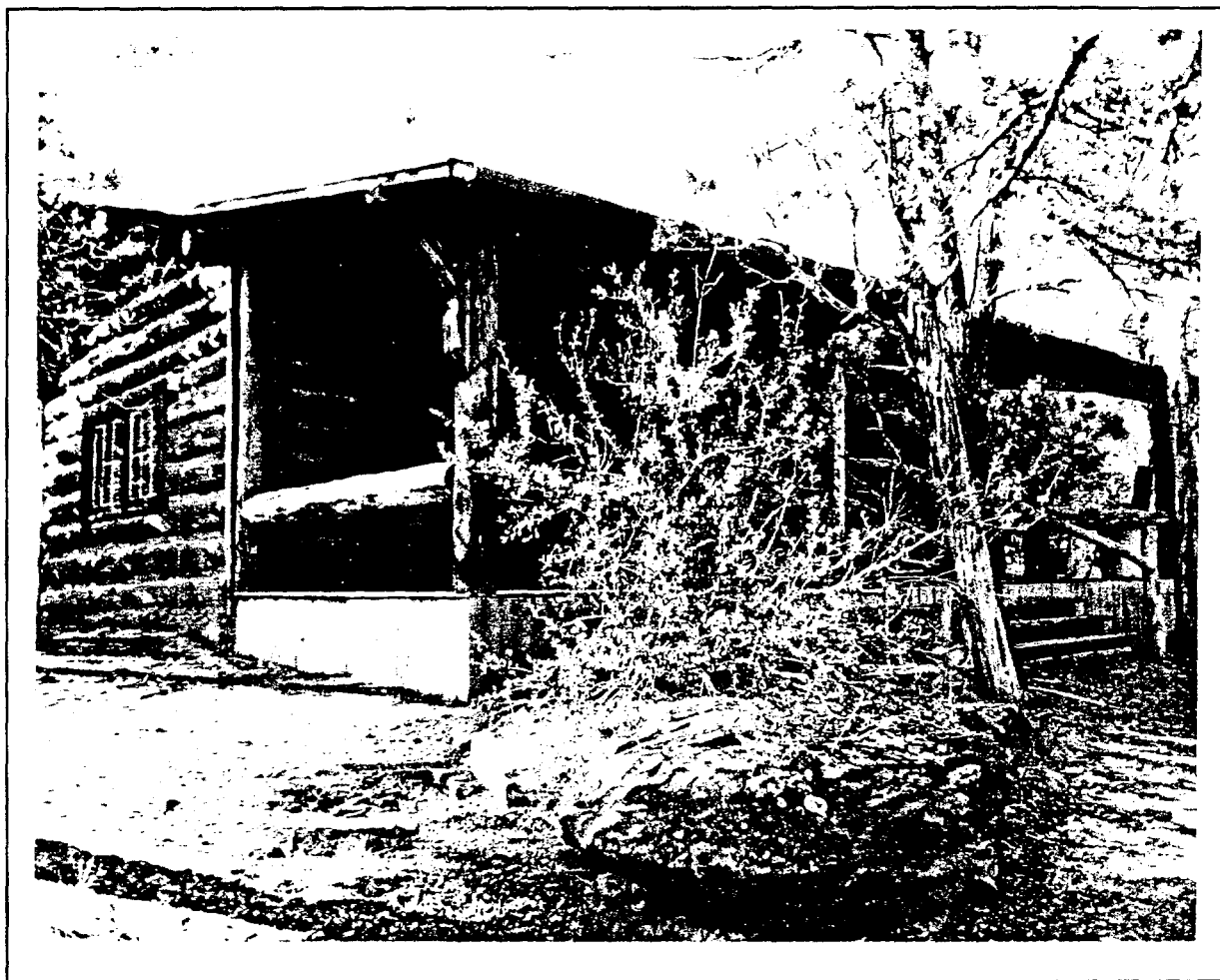
When the new administrative area near the park entrance becomes reality and the Fewkes Cabin is no longer needed for the park's Geographic Information Systems [GIS] staff, this historic [but relocated], 500 square foot structure will house park history exhibits.

The interpretive media for this exhibit area will be planned and designed to communicate the following thematic statement: Modern society has manipulated the Mesa Verde environment through exploration and development to modify the Mesa Verde National Park for resource management and preservation, visitor use, and appreciation. Further, the development of the buildings and facilities in the historic Park Headquarters area on the south end of Chapin Mesa reflects the uses and needs of park visitors and staff alike.

Visitor experience objectives for this interpretive facility will be to:

- help park visitors better understand modern society's exploration, modification and development of the Mesa Verde to facilitate the management, preservation, appreciation, enjoyment and use of the park and its resources;
- provide an organized means of helping park visitors experience and appreciate the historic structures and facilities in the Mesa Verde Park Headquarters Historic District.

Illustration 12
Relocated Fewkes Cabin, Proposed
Location for New Park History Exhibits



The park history topics to be treated in these exhibits would specifically include the history of:

- general park exploration;
- archeological "digs" or explorations;
- park structures and development, especially including the National Register Park Headquarters Historic District and its many CCC-era structures.

A self-guiding walking tour of the Mesa Verde Park Headquarters Historic District, with printed booklet, should be planned and developed. This cabin, which will be a stop on that walking tour, will be an unstaffed interpretive exhibit facility. Thus these park history exhibits will be flat panels of graphics and text, precluding the incorporation of three-dimensional artifacts.

Presently, this historic structure is not accessible for wheelchair users. Modifications and other adaptations will need to be made to assure accessibility. The feasibility of designing a ramp compatible to the historic structure should be considered. A single wayside will interpret the cabin as the park's first museum.

The self-guiding trail booklet, quite possibly illustrated, could be written and published at any time. A new section about these Fewkes Cabin exhibits would then be added to the booklet when the building with its exhibits opens to the visiting public.

Publications and Related Media Products

Mesa Verde National Park, working closely with its cooperating association--Mesa Verde Museum Association, has issued a fairly extensive series of interpretive publications and related media products. However, several publications have been identified among the park's future needs--some new and some revised. These publications generally fall into two groups: interpretive publications and related media products to be used directly by the public, and research publications to be used by park staff to develop and enhance interpretive programs and services.

Interpretive Publications and Related Media Products. Since the themes for these individual publications and media products are many and varied, and

sometimes involve multiple themes, it would be inappropriate to include a thematic statement for these publications as a group.

Visitor experience objectives for this system of both existing and planned publications and related media products will be to:

- provide visitors with more in-depth, more extensive interpretive information about Mesa Verde National Park;
- enhance and correct existing park publications, especially the Mesa Verde park folder;
- provide the means to allow visitors to experience the park at their own pace;
- provide an interpretive alternative of reasonable quality for the times and situations when personal interpretive services are simply unavailable;
- provide visitors with additional information about the National Park System, and the important national and international role of Mesa Verde NP as a part of that system.

Particular attention **must** be given to assuring that the NPS arrowhead logo be prominently displayed on all future park produced trail guides, handouts, and related media, as an aid in identifying the park as part of the National Park System.

Additionally, a definite effort should be made to assure that all future park publications be made available in more than one format, i.e., large type, audio, perhaps Braille. Incorporating this as standard procedure for the park's publications program will help reduce and perhaps minimize the perception of a "separate but equal" feeling fostered by actions made to accommodate *special populations*.

Proposed new and/or revised interpretive publications are as follows:

- **Official NPS Handbook.** This publication would be developed and produced by the Harpers Ferry Center as a part of the regular NPS handbook series. The design and layout will follow those established for official handbooks. Planning for the handbook has already begun, and a script for the main section of the handbook has been completed under contract;

- **Revision of the Current Park Folder.** A section concerning accessibility of features and programs for park visitors with various impairments needs to be added to the *About Your Visit* section of the folder. At the very least, the folder needs to be revised to alert visitors about the availability of a separate accessibility brochure for park visitors. It should also contain a statement communicating Mesa Verde's unique role as the initial U.S. cultural property to be designated as a World Heritage Site.

Also, the folder's cover inaccurately depicts the physical features of the prehistoric Anasazi people illustrated in the cliff dwelling graphic. Physical anthropological evidence, as uncovered by archeological investigations, at Mesa Verde shows that the Anasazi at Mesa Verde generally were a short, stocky people, rather than a thin, lanky people as they are now shown. A new, accurate graphic needs to be developed as a replacement.

The map needs to be changed to include an enlarged area inset map for the most heavily used section of the park, which is approximately the southernmost one-third of the park--Chapin and Wetherill Mesas from Far View Ruins on the south. The inclusion of this new inset will remove the pressing need for the park to produce and distribute a similar enlargement of this area.

- **Revision of the Existing Parkwide Accessibility Guide Booklet.** The existing Accessibility Guide booklet for the park's features and facilities is *very* outdated. This booklet should be revised to update the language and terminology as well the current accuracy of information. It is most important that this new revision include information for all types of personal disabilities.
- **Park Headquarters Historic District Walking Tour Booklet.** As proposed in the above "Fewkes Cabin" section, a new self-guiding trail booklet for a walking tour of Mesa Verde's Park Headquarters Historic District needs to be developed and published. The trail route would include the historic Fewkes Cabin, but the booklet can be produced and issued before the opening of the park history exhibits in the cabin. A new section about these Fewkes Cabin exhibits should be added to the booklet when the building with its exhibits opens to the visiting public.

Possible new related interpretive media products could be:

- **Relief Map/Poster of the Mesa Verde.** We suggest that Mesa Verde Museum Association [MVMA] consider developing a bird's-eye, panoramic view relief map/poster of the Mesa Verde and its immediate environs as a sales item;
- **Series of Audio Tape Tours.** We also suggest that MVMA consider developing and marketing a series of audio tape tours designed and produced to enrich the park visitor experience. These audio tapes could incorporate music, chants, native languages of Pueblo peoples, and appropriate ambient sounds of such things as every day living. Consideration could be given to developing these tapes for: Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum; the new Park Entrance Visitor Center; other exhibit areas, especially the Natural History Exhibits in the Old Ranger Club; and self-guided tours for selected ruins area, such as Cliff Palace, Spruce Tree House, Long House, Step House, and the Far View Ruins Group.

Research Publications. Excavations and surveys have been completed for five archeological sites within Mesa Verde National Park for which readily available professional reports would be most useful to the park's interpretive staff. Publication of the existing manuscripts for Step House Cliff Dwelling and Two Raven House of the Badger House Community, both of which are located on Wetherill Mesa, would be most helpful for the development and enhancement of interpretive programs and services as soon as they can become available. Reports from the excavation of two other ruins or ruins complexes--Coyote Village Site [Site 820 in the Far View Ruins Complex] and the two Morefield Great Kivas with their associated room block--would also be most useful to interpretive staff as soon as these reports can be written and made available through publishing.

Dr. Mary Griffiths, a Volunteer In Park, is in the process of developing a manuscript for a professional research study of the geology of Mesa Verde. Like the archeological reports, this study would be most useful to the park's interpretive staff for the development and enhancement of interpretive programs and services if it were readily available as a published document. It would also be a potential sales publication for those seeking "in-depth" information. Thus it should be completed and published.

PERSONAL SERVICES

Because fragile, irreplaceable cliff dwellings can only be open to the public when staffed, Mesa Verde National Park relies more heavily on personal services to interpret Mesa Verde's story than perhaps most other national parks of similar size and annual public use.

The development of interpretive/orientation media for either new or rehabilitated visitor centers and museums will not negate or even diminish this continued need for personal services to manage these delicate cultural resources through interpretation.

Therefore, it would be a distinct understatement to say that personal services play and will continue to play a vital role in interpretive and visitor services at the Mesa Verde National Park.

The currently approved *Annual Statement for Interpretation and Visitor Services* complements the Interpretive Prospectus by integrating its personal service directions, especially the activity-by-activity summary of the Interpretation and Visitor Services Program, into the media development proposals of this prospectus.

Although covered in greater detail in the current version of that plan, the continuing need for the use of personal services throughout Mesa Verde National Park is summarized here through references elsewhere in this prospectus and as follows:

- **Staffing of Primary Information/Orientation Facilities:** The new Entrance Visitor Center, Chapin Mesa Museum, Far View Visitor Center, and Wetherill Mesa Tram Terminal; the new visitor center will likely be operated on a similar schedule as the current hours of operation for the Chapin Mesa Museum, year-round [8 hours daily in off-season, and 10-1/2 hours daily during peak season], please see pages 29-30, 33, & 35 for operational details;

- **Staffing of New Secondary Interpretive Facilities:** The new Contemporary Pueblo Cultures exhibits, to be located in the Old Community Center Building, and the new Natural History Exhibits, to be located in the old Ranger Club or Dorm Building, will require additional roving seasonal interpretive personnel as is detailed in the "Staffing Needs" section below;
- **Daily Conducted Tours:** Please see page 35 for details;
- **Attended Stations, Summer Season:** Please see page 35 for details;
- **Evening Interpretive Programs, Morefield Amphitheater, Summer Season:** Please see page 36 for details;
- **Interior Patio Programs, Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum:** Please see page 36 for details; however, the level of continuing frequency of use of this interior patio will depend upon the availability of interpretive personnel with the necessary special talents and skills.

As the availability of interpretive personnel with the necessary special talents and skills allows, serious consideration should be given to the use of the historic Chapin Mesa Amphitheater as a site to present appropriate interpretive cultural demonstrations, such as flintknapping. We believe that this historic amphitheater with picturesque Spruce Canyon as a backdrop probably has the most outstanding vista of any outdoor amphitheater in the National Park System. Interpretive demonstrations and other similarly appropriate special events would be the best possible use for this venerable facility.

STAFFING NEEDS

The proposals of this prospectus will require some increase in the interpretation and visitor services staff to carry out this expanded program.

The construction of the new Entrance Visitor Center with its extensive interpretive media will require additional interpretive staff, specifically three new permanent interpreters and 1.0 work-years of new seasonal staff.

Establishment of a Morefield District Interpreter position would also be needed. Since that District Interpreter would supervise both the new visitor center and the evening campfire programs at Morefield Campground Amphitheater, the position would probably classify as a GS-9 Supervisory Park Ranger.

Although not part of interpretive staffing, park management should not overlook the need for additional maintenance personnel to properly care for the physical needs of the new facility.

If and when Mug House on Wetherill Mesa is opened to the public, 3.5 seasonal work-years will need to be added to the park's interpretive staffing.

The opening of the two new exhibit buildings near the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum, Contemporary Pueblo Cultures and the Natural History, will also require 1.3 work-years of additional seasonal staff. This temporary summer staff will split their roving interpretive services time between each of these two sites.

PLANS AND STUDIES NEEDED TO FULLY IMPLEMENT THIS PROSPECTUS

As documented in "*The Planning Context*" [see page 5], Mesa Verde still needs several plans and studies to properly support and fully implement this interpretive prospectus.

Needed plans include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Parkwide Visitor Use Plan;
- Parkwide Transportation Plan;

- Additional Visitor Experience/Expectation Studies, including:
 - Visitor Exit Surveys/Studies,
 - Needs and Interest Assessments for Elderly Visitors,
 - Needs and Interest Assessments for Children Visiting the Park,
 - Visitors' "Perceptions of Crowding" Studies;
- Study to Rectify Discrepancies Between Actual Visitor Counts/Daily Use Hours and Previous Figures Based on Past Research and Road Use Statistics;
- Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum Accessibility Study and Plan;
- Visitor Impacts and Carrying Capacity Studies for all ruins open to visitors, especially those on Chapin Mesa [Spruce Tree House, Cliff Palace and Balcony House] with a distinct goal of reducing visitor impacts, and for existing visitor use facilities, especially the historic Fewkes Cabin and the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum;
- A multi-site social science research study, *Assessment of Visitor Experiences at Three Anasazi Cultural Parks*, currently in progress at the Cooperative Park Studies Unit at Northern Arizona University. Marty Lee, principal investigator, will be evaluating visitor experiences at Chaco Culture National Historical Park, Wupatki National Monument, and Mesa Verde National Park.

MUSEUM COLLECTION AS AN INTERPRETIVE RESOURCE

The park's 1.5 million plus object museum collection definitely is a potential source for the additional interpretive exhibits and media presentations proposed by this prospectus. Media planners and designers will need to work closely with Mesa Verde's Park Curator, as well as with the interpretive staff, when planning and developing new interpretive media--especially for the new exhibits for the Entrance and Far View Visitor Centers. However, planners and designers need to keep in mind that some type of environmental controls will be needed for all facilities exhibiting artifacts.

INTERPRETIVE MEDIA PRIORITY PHASINGS

As specified in the approved Task Directive for the preparation of this Interpretive Prospectus, the various elements of this complex and ambitious plan need to be organized in manageable phases. For the most part, only the Harpers Ferry Center media development projects will be listed in these three priority phases. However, one interpretive publication which will be published by the Mesa Verde Museum Association will be listed.

Priority Phase I: This phase includes those media development projects which can be accomplished immediately, because they are not dependent upon the completion of development projects elsewhere in the park or the acquiring of large sums of donated money.

1. Develop and produce the 29 wayside panels of Group #1 of the Parkwide Wayside Exhibit Plan, including the orientation panel(s) for the Wetherill Mesa Interpretive Plaza;
2. Develop and produce the alternative access video for the Chapin Mesa cliff dwellings;
3. Develop and produce exhibit panels and information desk for Morefield Village Orientation/Information Facility;
4. Develop and produce the interpretive media for the Wetherill Mesa Tram Station Interpretive Plaza, including the information station, a small exhibit area, a Mesa Verde Museum Association sales facility, and the alternative access video for mobility impaired visitors;
5. Complete the Park Historical Handbook;
6. Revise the Park's Unigrid Folder;
7. Develop and publish a new self-guiding walking tour booklet for the historic park administrative area on Chapin Mesa [probable responsibility: Mesa Verde Museum Association];

8. Develop and produce the nine wayside panels of Group #2 of the Parkwide Wayside Exhibit Plan.

Priority Phase II: This phase includes media development projects which are dependent upon the construction of the new Entrance Visitor Center or projects which lack the urgency of Phase I projects.

1. Plan and produce the refurbishing of the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum;
Although ideally this should follow the construction of the new Entrance Visitor Center to permit an alternative experience for the public while this museum would be closed for refurbishing, this project is listed first in this priority because it could be undertaken even if the Entrance Visitor Center project is greatly delayed by developing and installing a temporary alternative exhibit in the current auditorium: such an exhibit should be cost estimated, in the event that this option becomes necessary;
2. Develop and produce the audio description tape programs for the Wetherill Mesa Tram Loop and the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum;
3. Develop and produce the 22 wayside panels of Group #3 of the Parkwide Wayside Exhibit Plan, which includes the three waysides associated with the new Entrance VC;
4. Develop, produce and install the new Entrance VC interpretive media;

Priority Phase III: This phase includes those media development projects which are dependent upon the development of a complete new park headquarters complex near the park entrance.

1. Develop, produce and install interpretive media for Far View VC.
2. Develop, produce and install the Contemporary Pueblo Cultures exhibits and the cabinetry and furnishings for the permanent location of the alternative access video for the Chapin Mesa cliff dwellings for the "Old Community Center;"

3. Develop, produce and install the Natural History Museum exhibits for the old "Ranger Club;"
4. Develop and produce park history exhibits for the historic Fewkes Cabin.

SUMMARY OF MEDIA PRESCRIPTIONS AND COST ESTIMATES

[A] = Audiovisual; [E] = Museum Exhibits;
[P] = Publications; [W] = Wayside Exhibits

Note: These amounts are Harpers Ferry Center Class "C" project cost estimates. They are not to be used to formulate budget requests. The Harpers Ferry Center Programs Officer, phone number (304) 535-6258, should be contacted for Package Estimating Detail (Form 10-802) which will list the current cost estimates for each project type and include contingencies and overhead appropriate for fund source.

[06] = Advanced Planning -- Comp. Design
(51) = Museum Exhibit Planning and Design
(52) = Museum Exhibit Production
(53) = Conservation of Exhibit Artifacts
(54) = Wayside Exhibit Planning and Design
(55) = Wayside Exhibit Production
(61) = Audiovisual Planning
(62) = Audiovisual Production
(63) = Audiovisual Equipment
(73) = Publications Planning and Production

INTERPRETIVE MEDIA PROPOSALS

(Planning) (Production) (Hardware)

PRIORITY PHASE I:

Group #1, Parkwide Wayside Exhibits

[W] Plan/design, produce and install 29 parkwide wayside exhibits, including the orientation wayside(s) for the Wetherill Mesa Tram Station Interpretive Mall [see pp. 54 & 57-62]

(54)	(55)
\$26,000	\$145,000

Alternative Accessibility Video, Chapin Mesa

[A] Plan, produce and install a seven- to ten-minute alternative access video for Spruce Tree House, Cliff Palace and Balcony House for mobility impaired visitors [see pp. 95-96]

(61)	(62)	(63)
\$ 8,000	\$23,000	\$ 5,000

Morefield Village Orientation/Information Facility

[E] Plan/design, produce and install information/orientation desk furnishings and a limited number of exhibit panels in the lobby portion of the Morefield District Ranger Station (approx. 189 sq.ft) [see pg. 78]

(51)	(52)
\$18,000	\$60,000

Wetherill Mesa Tram Station Interpretive Plaza

[E] Plan/design, produce and install limited exhibits featuring prehistoric artifacts and/or their replicas from various Wetherill Mesa excavations in a small, enclosed exhibit space in the Wetherill Mesa Interpretive Plaza (estimated at approx. 500 sq.ft.) {Note: This media installation should be coordinated with that of waysides for tram facility} [see pp. 78-80]

(06)	(51)	(52)
\$ 8,000	\$93,000	\$188,000

[A] Plan/design, produce and install a five- to seven-minute alternative access video of Long House and Step House for mobility impaired visitors [see pg. 80]

(06)	(61)	(62)	(63)
\$ 2,000	\$ 6,000	\$20,000	\$ 5,000

Official NPS Handbook

[P] Complete the planning and production of an Official NPS Handbook for Mesa Verde National Park [see pg. 104]

(73) plng.	(73) prod.
\$38,000	\$43,000

Group #2, Parkwide Wayside Exhibits

[W] Plan/design, produce and install nine parkwide wayside exhibits [see pp. 54, 57, 59 & 62-63]

(54)	(55)
\$14,000	\$68,000

PRIORITY PHASE II:

Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum

[E] Plan/design, produce and install reorganized, refurbished exhibits and furnishings for the Lobby and Main Exhibit Rooms (approx. 4210 sq.ft.) *{Note: the "51" funds will include an on-site conservator's artifact condition analysis, and, if necessary, funding complete documentary recording of existing exhibits}* [see pp. 81-85]

(51)	(52)	(53)
\$738,000	\$1,898,000	\$188,000

[E] Plan/design, produce and install temporary exhibits in the current auditorium, to be used during the refurbishing of the remainder of the Chapin Mesa Museum (approx. 1050 sq.ft.) [see pp. 81 and 112]

(51)	(52)	(53)
\$68,000	\$188,000	\$18,000

Audio Description Tape Tours

[A] Develop and produce two audio description tape tours; one each for the Wetherill Mesa Tram Loop (20-30 min. long) and the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum (30 min. long) [see pg. 99]

(61)	(62)
\$12,000	\$23,000

Group #3, Parkwide Wayside Exhibits

[W] Plan/design, produce and install 22 parkwide wayside exhibits, including the three waysides associated with the new Entrance VC [see pp. 54, 57, 59 & 63-65]

(54)	(55)
\$30,000	\$147,000

New Entrance Visitor Center

[E] Plan/design, produce and install information/orientation and museum exhibits in the lobby, and main exhibit area, will include a very large backdrop mural(s) (approx. 5,000 sq.ft.) [see pp. 65-71 & 73-77]

(06)	(51) plng.	(51) art purch.	(52)	(53)
\$30,000	\$630,000	\$300,000	\$1,875,000	\$83,000

[A] Plan/design, produce and install three travel/orientation information visitor interactive video stations in VC lobby, each with an identical program, a *user friendly* authoring system, and printout capability. [see pg. 70]

(06)	(61)	(62)	(63)
\$ 8,000	\$23,000	\$60,000	\$45,000

[A] Plan, produce and install four brief [two- to three-minute maximum] video segments to be integrally incorporated in the Main Exhibit area, along with an ambient soundscapes audio track to be integrally incorporated into the large mural (length not to exceed three- to four-minute) [see pp. 75-76]

(06)	(61)	(62)	(63)
\$ 6,000	\$12,000	\$60,000	\$23,000

[A] Plan and produce a parkwide orientation tape for the visually impaired [approx. 20 min. long] [see pp. 70 & 99]

(61)	(62)
\$ 5,000	\$12,000

[A] Plan, produce and install an eight- to ten-minute large format audiovisual interpretive program for summer travel season, with surround sound, captioning, enhanced audio track, and an audio description track; Install AV equipment in each of the dual theaters, includes equipment for foreign language versions and longer versions of this interpretive program listed below [see pp. 71-73]

(06)	(61)	(62)	(63)
\$23,000	\$45,000	\$150,000	\$150,000

[A] Plan and produce two foreign language audio track versions of the above AV program, one in German, and one other (to be selected at time of development based on greatest need) [see pg. 73]

(06)	(61)	(62)	(63)
\$ 2,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 8,000	(see above)

[A] Plan, produce and install a 15-18 minute large format audiovisual interpretive program for off-season use, with surround sound, captioning, enhanced audio track, and an audio description track; to be installed in only one of the dual theaters [see pp. 71-73]

(06)	(61)	(62)	(63)
\$15,000	\$30,000	\$90,000	(see above)

[A] Plan and install additional audiovisual equipment in the theaters as follows: a 35 mm. slide projection system with lapse dissolve in each of the dual theaters, and a state of the art, ceiling-mounted video projection system with peripherals in the theater used year-round [see pg. 73]

(63)
\$113,000

PRIORITY PHASE III:

Far View Visitor Center

[E] Plan/design, produce and install information/orientation and museum exhibits to interpret the preservation and management of the park's cultural resources, and its supporting research (3655 sq.ft.) [see pp. 85-91]

(51)	(52)	(53)
\$458,000	\$1,365,000	\$60,000

[A] Plan, produce and install three brief [two- to three-minute maximum] video segments to be integrally incorporated in exhibits [see pp. 90-91]

(61)	(62)	(63)
\$12,000	\$45,000	\$15,000

[A] Plan, produce and install two interactive video work stations--programs and equipment--in the interactive media area [see pg. 91]

(61)	(62)	(63)
\$23,000	\$180,000	\$12,000

Contemporary Pueblo Cultures, "Old Community Center"

[E] Plan/design, produce and install Contemporary Pueblo Culture exhibits and cabinetry/furnishings for the alternative access video facility in the "Old Community Center" building (approx. 1794 sq.ft.) [see pp. 91-95]

(51)	(52)	(53)
\$268,000	\$803,000	\$105,000

[A] Plan, produce and install three brief [two- to three-minute maximum] video segments to be integrally incorporated in the Contemporary Pueblo Cultures exhibits [see pg. 95]

(61)	(62)	(63)
\$12,000	\$45,000	\$15,000

Natural History Museum, Old "Ranger Club"

[E] Plan/design, produce and install Natural History Museum exhibits in the old "Ranger Club" building (approx. 2970 sq.ft.) [see pp. 96-97]

(51)	(52)	(53)
\$258,000	\$780,000	\$23,000

[A] Plan, produce and install two brief [two- to three-minute maximum] video segments to be integrally incorporated in the Natural History exhibits [see pg. 97]

(61)	(62)	(63)
\$12,000	\$45,000	\$15,000

Fewkes Cabin Exhibits

[E] Plan/design, produce and install park history exhibit panels (no three-dimensional artifacts will be used because it will be an unstaffed facility) in the historic Fewkes Cabin (approx. 500 sq.ft.) [see pp. 100-101 & 103]

(51)	(52)
\$38,000	\$113,000

COST ESTIMATES BY PHASE AND BY MEDIA

<u>Media</u>	<u>Adv. Plng.</u>	<u>Plng.</u>	<u>Prod'n</u>	<u>Equip/Conserv.</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
<u>PHASE I:</u>					
AV	\$ 2,000	\$14,000	\$43,000	\$10,000	\$ 69,000
Mus.Exh.	\$ 8,000	\$109,000	\$284,000	--0--	\$401,000
WE	--0--	\$40,000	\$213,000	--0--	\$253,000
Pub.	--0--	\$38,000	\$43,000	--0--	<u>\$ 81,000</u>
Phase Totals.					\$804,000
<u>PHASE II:</u>					
AV	\$54,000	\$130,000	\$ 403,000	\$331,000	\$ 918,000
Mus.Exh.	\$30,000	\$1,736,000	\$3,961,000	\$289,000	\$6,016,000
WE	--0--	\$30,000	\$147,000	--0--	<u>\$177,000</u>
Phase Totals					\$7,111,000
<u>PHASE III:</u>					
AV	\$ --0--	\$59,000	\$315,000	\$57,000	\$431,000
Mus.Exh.	\$ --0--	\$1,022,000	\$3,061,000	\$188,000	<u>\$4,271,000</u>
Phase Totals					\$4,702,000
GRAND TOTALS					\$12,617,000

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APPENDIX "A"

LIST OF EXISTING WAYSIDE EXHIBITS

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Location, Source of Origin, and Future Disposition</u>
<u>Area 1</u> --- Front Gate to D-Cut Area	
Panoramic Features near Mancos Valley	Mancos Overlook (Big Hill); HFC, 1979; Replace with new wayside, HFC #38
Vista and Historic Road	Montezuma Overlook (Prater Canyon); HFC, 1979; Replace with new wayside, HFC #39
Park Point Trailhead Orientation & "The Four-Corners"	Park Point Parking Area; MEVE, 1992; Retain & Evaluate in future for possible replacement [HFC #41]
Geology of Park Point Area	Park Point, West Overlook; MEVE, 1992; Retain & Evaluate in future for possible replacement [HFC #42]
Panoramic Features, East & "Why the Anasazi Lived Here"	Park Point, Southeast Overlook; MEVE, In MEVE, In Production (1992); Retain & Evaluate in future for possible replacement [HFC #44]
Geology of D-Cut Escarpment, Part I	North Escarpment Geologic Overlook (D-Cut); MEVE, 1991; Evaluate in future for either replacement or removal

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Location, Source of Origin, and Future Disposition</u>
Geology of D-Cut Escarpment, Part II	North Escarpment Geologic Overlook (D-Cut) Trail; MEVE, 1991; Evaluate in future for either replacement or removal
Area 2 --- Far View Visitor Center (Navajo Hill) and Far View Community Ruins Area	
Air Quality	Far View VC, Front Railing; RMR Contract, In Production [HFC #53]
Introduction to Far View Community	Far View Community Ruins Trail, 1st Stop; MEVE, 1972; Replace with new wayside, HFC #54
Fossils, Fetishes, and Cloudblowers	Far View Community Ruins Trail, Pipe Shrine House Ruin; MEVE, 1991; Retain & Evaluate in future for possible replacement [HFC #56]
Far View Tower: "Another Neighborhood"	Far View Community Ruins Trail, Far View Tower Ruin; MEVE, In Production (1992); Retain & Evaluate in future for possible replacement [HFC #57]
Mummy Lake: "Opposing Theories"	Far View Community Ruins Trail, Mummy Lake; MEVE, 1991; Retain & Evaluate in future for possible replacement [HFC #58]
Megalithic House: General Overview	Far View Community Ruins Trail, Megalithic Ruins; HFC #35, 1989; Retain

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Location, Source of Origin, and Future Disposition</u>
Coyote Village	Far View Community Ruins Trail, Coyote Village Ruin; MEVE, 1972; MEVE Replacement is in Production (1992); Retain & Evaluate in future for possible replacement [HFC #59]
Resource Protection: "Leave the Past in Place"	Far View Community Ruins Trail, Site #820; MEVE, 1992; Retain & Evaluate in future for possible replacement [HFC #60]
Village Site and Tower-Tunnel-Kiva Complex	Site 499, Far View Community Ruins Complex located across the main Chapin Mesa Road from the Far View Ruins parking area; HFC #36, Planned and Approved in 1989; However, production has been deferred until such time that a safe access for visitors is developed, such as a pedestrian underpass or overpass
Overlapping Occupations Tunnel-Kiva complex	Site 875, Far View Community Ruins Complex, located across the main Chapin Road from the Far View Ruins parking area; HFC #36, Planned and Approved in 1989; However, production has been deferred until such time that a safe access for visitors is developed, such as a pedestrian underpass or overpass

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Location, Source of Origin, and Future Disposition</u>
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Area 3 --- Cedar Tree Tower Area and Park Headquarters Area, on Chapin Mesa

Cedar Tree Tower-Tunnel-Kiva	Cedar Tree Tower Ruin; MEVE, 1992; Retain & Evaluate in future for possible replacement [HFC #61]
Farming Terrace Introduction	Cedar Tree Tower Area, Farming Terrace Trailhead; MEVE, 1992; Retain & Evaluate in future for possible replacement [HFC #62]
Prehistoric Soil and Water Conservation	Cedar Tree Tower Area, Farming Terraces; MEVE, 1992; Retain & Evaluate in future for possible replacement [HFC #63]
Spruce Tree House	CRO Building (Old Community Center); old in-house MEVE; MEVE Replacement in Production (1992); Retain & Evaluate in future for possible replacement [HFC #64]

Area 4 --- Mesa Top Ruins Loop, on Chapin Mesa

First Permanent Home	Pithouse B; HFC #1, 1991; Retain
Pithouse Life	Pithouse B; HFC #2, 1991; Retain
Scorched Pithouse	Pithouse B; HFC #3, 1991; Retain

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Location, Source of Origin, and Future Disposition</u>
Pithouse Antechamber	Pithouse B; HFC #4, 1991; Revise, Needs Map Reversed, HFC Replacement in Progress (1992)
Visible Ruins	Navajo Canyon Overlook; MEVE, 1972; Removed in 1991; Replace with new wayside, HFC #66
Canyon Barriers	Navajo Canyon Overlook; HFC #5, 1991; Retain
Alcove Dwellers	Square Tower House Overlook; HFC #6, 1991; Retain
Pithouse "Fire Traps"	Twin Tree Site Pithouse; HFC #7, 1991; Retain
Venting a Pithouse	Twin Tree Site Pithouse; HFC #8, 1991; Retain
Overlapping Occupations	Twin Tree Site Pithouse; HFC #9, 1991; Retain
Crescent-Shaped Pueblo	Twin Tree Village; HFC #10, 1991; Retain
Pitroom: Transition to Kiva	Twin Tree Village; HFC #11, 1991; Retain
Second Village	Twin Tree Village; HFC #12, 1991; Retain
Kiva Features	Twin Tree Village; HFC #13, 1991; Retain
Village on Village Introduction	Site 16 Trailhead; HFC #14, 1984; Revise Needs Map Reversed, HFC Replacement for Site 16 in Progress (1992)

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Location, Source of Origin, and Future Disposition</u>
Dating the Age of Ruins	Site 16; HFC #15, 1984; Retain
Excavation Techniques	Site 16; HFC #16, 1984; Retain
Kiva Features and Southern Alignment	Site 16; HFC #17, 1984; Retain
Sun Point Pueblo	Sun Point Pueblo Ruins; HFC #18, 1990; Retain
Water Supply: 12 Ruins Visible	Sun Point Overlook; HFC #19, 1991; Revise, Replacement Photos Needed; HFC Replacement in Progress (1992)
Split Level History: Cliff Dwellings and and Mesa Top Ruins	Sun Point Overlook; HFC #20, 1991; Revise, Replacement Photos Needed; HFC Replacement in Progress (1992)
Oak Tree House and Natural Alcoves	Oak Tree House Overlook; HFC #21, 1991; Retain
New Fire Temple	Fire Temple Overlook; HFC #22, 1991; Retain
Mysteries of Sun Temple	Sun Temple; HFC #23, 1990; Retain

Area 5 --- Cliff Palace Loop, on Chapin Mesa

Cliff Palace: Life in this Place	Cliff Palace Overlook; MEVE, 1972; MEVE Replacement in Progress (1992); Retain & Evaluate in Future for possible replacement [HFC #68]
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<u>Subject</u>	<u>Location, Source of Origin, and Future Disposition</u>
House of Many Windows Cliff Dwelling	House of Many Windows Overlook; MEVE, 1972; Replace with new wayside, HFC #69
Hemenway House Cliff Dwelling Identification	Hemenway House Overlook; MEVE, 1972; Remove, because lack of adequate parking space, unless and until construction remedies deficiency
Balcony House Interpretation and Safety	Balcony House Covered Waiting Area for Guided Tours; MEVE, 1972; Replace in new, accessible location using new theme of "Balcony House Visit for the Physically Challenged", HFC #70
Soda Canyon/Balcony House Overlook	Soda Canyon Trailhead; MEVE, 1992: Retain & Evaluate in future for possible replacement [HFC #71]
Balcony House	Soda Canyon Trail, South Overlook; MEVE 1992; Retain & Evaluate in future for possible replacement [HFC #72]

Area 6 --- Wetherill Mesa, other than Badger House Community Area

Montezuma Valley and the Anasazi Population	Wetherill Mesa Road, Milepost 3.9; MEVE Temporary, 1987; Replace with new wayside, HFC #73
Air Quality and Shiprock View	Wetherill Mesa Road, Milepost 7.5; MEVE Temporary, 1987; Replace with new wayside, HFC #74

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Location, Source of Origin, and Future Disposition</u>
Panoramic View from Top of Wetherill	Wetherill Mesa Road, Milepost 7.5; MEVE Temporary, 1987; Replace with new wayside at Milepost 8.6, HFC #75
1963 Fire Viewpoints	Wetherill Mesa Road, approx. Milepost 10; MEVE Temporary, 1987; Consider the need for replacement and/or removal
Ruins Towers Viewpoint	Wetherill Mesa Road, approx. Milepost 10; MEVE Temporary, 1987; Consider the need for replacement and/or removal
Gustaf Nordenskiöld	Wetherill Mesa Tram Route, Trailhead to Nordenskiöld's Ruin #16; MEVE, 1992; Retain & Evaluate in future for possible replacement [HFC #81]
Nordenskiöld's Ruin #16: "Close Quarters"	Overlook for Nordenskiöld's Ruin #16; MEVE, 1992; Retain & evaluate in future for possible replacement [not on HFC Waysides Proposal]
Kodak House	Wetherill Mesa Tram Route, Kodak House Overlook; HFC, 1991; Retain
Nordenskiöld and Camera Storage	Wetherill Mesa Tram Route, Kodak House Overlook; HFC 1973/86 aluminum; Evaluate for removal or possible replacement
Long House	Wetherill Mesa Tram Route, Long House Overlook; HFC 1973/86 aluminum; Replace with standard low profile wayside, HFC #82

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Location, Source of Origin, and Future Disposition</u>
Introduction to Badger House Community	Wetherill Mesa Tram Route, Badger House Community Trailhead; HFC #34, 1987; Retain

Area 7 --- Badger House Community Ruins Trail Area

Pithouse Life	Badger House Community Trail, Pithouse Site 1644; HFC #24, 1987; Retain
Introduction to Village Site	Badger House Community Trail, Village Site 1676; HFC #25, 1987; Retain
Great Kiva	Badger House Community Trail, Village Site 1676; HFC #26, 1987; Revise, Needs Map Reversed, HFC Replacement in Progress (1992)
Introduction to Badger House: Two Villages Superimposed	Badger House Community Trail, Badger House Village (Site 1452); HFC #30, 1987; Retain
Overlapping Walls, House	Badger House Community Trail, Badger House Village (Site 1452); HFC #31, 1987; Retain
Tower-tunnel-kiva Connection, Badger House	Badger House Community Trail, Badger House Village (Site 1452); HFC #32, 1987; Retain
Introduction to Two House Village	Badger House Community Trail, Two Raven House Village (Site 1645); HFC #27, Village 1987; Retain

Subject

Location, Source of Origin, and Future Disposition

Two Raven House Kiva

Badger House Community Trail, Two Raven
House Village (Site 1645); HFC #28,
1987; Retain

Tower-like Structure

Badger House Community Trail, Two Raven
House Village (Site 1645); HFC #29,
1987; Retain